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Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund



Chesapeake Bay Program  
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# INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION GRANTS

## 2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Letter of Interest Due Date: **January 15, 2021**

Full Proposal Due Date: **March 1, 2021**

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership, is soliciting proposals to restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

NFWF is soliciting proposals under the **Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants (INSR)** program to accelerate the rate and scale of water quality improvements specifically through the coordinated and collaborative efforts of sustainable, regional-scale<sup>1</sup> partnerships in implementing proven water quality improvement practices more cost-effectively. Projects proposing to implement water quality improvement projects or practices at the pilot or demonstration scale, through ad-hoc project-scale partnerships, or via small-scale applications of new or innovative technologies are encouraged to apply for funding through the separate Small Watershed Grants (SWG) program Request for Proposals anticipated for release in early 2021.

NFWF estimates awarding \$7-10 million in grants through the INSR program in 2021, contingent on the availability of funding. Major funding comes from the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, with other important contributions by Altria Group, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This year, NFWF is requiring all prospective INSR applicants to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) outlining their project concept in advance of being invited to submit a full proposal. The deadline for submitting an LOI is **Friday, January 15, 2021**. For more information on the required LOI elements, process, and timelines, please see “HOW TO APPLY” below.



### GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

All projects must occur wholly within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and directly result in the implementation of water quality improvements across multiple sites within a defined regional project

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this RFP, NFWF is exercising a flexible definition of what constitutes an appropriate “regional scale” partnership based on the unique aspects of relevant nutrient and sediment pollution source sectors, geographic focus, priority best management practices and identified barriers to adoption or implementation, and existing individual and collaborative organizational structures and service areas, among other considerations. In general, NFWF expects applicants to demonstrate how project partnerships and networks will achieve a measurable increase in the geographic scale and/or rate of water quality improvement not otherwise possible without enhanced coordination, collaboration, and integration between organizational resources, capacities, and programs.



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focus or service area, to be specified by program applicants. Priority consideration will be provided to projects located within priority subwatersheds where NFWF has identified significant needs for additional nutrient and sediment pollution reduction; applicants should consult links in this Request for Proposals and NFWF's online Chesapeake Bay Business Plan [mapping portal](#) for more information on priority areas.

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

As the CBP partnership initiates the critical final phase of implementation efforts under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), NFWF, EPA, and CBP partners are intentionally targeting INSR program funding towards the accelerated implementation of proven water quality improvement practices<sup>2</sup> and approaches to achieve the level implementation necessary to achieve remaining pollution reductions by the TMDL's 2025 deadline. The desired result of INSR funding is a measurable increase in the rate and/or scale of implementation for priority water quality improvement practices, as identified through the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and associated [Watershed Implementation Plans \(WIPs\)](#), in a defined regional project focus or service area.

NFWF is specifically soliciting proposals from existing partnerships, collaboratives, and networks ("partnerships"), which data from NFWF, EPA, and others demonstrate are an especially effective mechanism of achieving and sustaining desired water quality improvement efforts by strategic leveraging of capacities, skills, and resources of diverse stakeholders. Such partnerships can take many forms<sup>3</sup> and may include nonprofit organizations, public agencies, institutions, and/or businesses with a shared focus on water quality restoration and protection.

NFWF will competitively award funding under the INSR program to partnership projects that simultaneously (1) cultivate the growth and enhancement of existing regional-scale partnerships working on watershed restoration, and (2) measurably accelerate the geographic scale and/or rate of implementation for priority water quality improvement practices identified through the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and associated WIPs:

**Cultivating Partnership and Network Growth and Enhancement:** Consistent with program goals for accelerating near-term water quality improvements, the INSR program will focus primarily on efforts to enhance and expand the capacity and impact of **existing** partnerships for water quality restoration and protection. Projects seeking to establish new partnerships are encouraged to apply for funding through the separate SWG program Request for Proposals.

Proposals must summarize both the current composition, structure, and function of the existing partnership(s) included in the proposal, citing formal and informal mechanisms for coordination and collaboration, as well as enhancements in these partnerships that will be achieved through the proposed project activities. Proposals must also establish a clear connection as to how proposed

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of the INSR program, eligible water quality improvement practices include practices approved by the Chesapeake Bay Program for crediting under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. For a complete list of approved practices, please visit CBP's [Quick Reference Guide for Best Management Practices \(BMPs\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> A brief, non-exhaustive summary of selected examples includes regional authorities for the delivery of stormwater program funding and management at a multi-municipality scale, coalitions of conservation districts working for the delivery of technical assistance and coordinated implementation for priority agricultural conservation practices at multi-county scales, multi-sector partnerships working to address a variety of pollution sources at the small watershed scale, and watershed-based partnerships for stream, wetland, and floodplain restoration.



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changes in coordinated and collaborative structures and/or functions will help to accelerate water quality improvements, a quantification of those water quality improvements, address key implementation and adoption barriers for priority practices, and improve long-term sustainability and durability of associated partnerships.

While specific activities necessary to cultivate more effective and impactful partnerships will vary considerably, NFWF, in partnership with University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement and Negotiation, has identified four key areas for investment based on an extensive review of successful ecosystem restoration collaboratives, both in the Chesapeake Bay region and nationally, completed in 2019:

- **Building and Sustaining Motivation:** Shared strategic planning processes, learning agendas, stakeholder engagement and recruitment initiatives, and leadership development activities can play important roles in building and sustaining inspiration and motivation for collaborative action. These processes and activities help to maintain an evident and transparent shared collaborative vision and purpose and further attract diverse stakeholders, organizations, and individuals for a comprehensive and inclusive vision given unique local or regional needs.
- **Establishing and Improving Effective Collaborative Processes:** Clear, consistent, and explicit agreements on internal and external communication protocols, coordinative roles and responsibilities, decision-making processes, and conflict management approaches can help to build trust and contribute to more effective and transparent processes for collaborative conservation action. Ensuring effective and consistent communication and convening of partnerships often plays a central role in clarifying and refining appropriate processes.
- **Enhancing Core Capacities:** Staffing of collaborative coordinators, building of requisite technical expertise, “mapping” of technical and financial resources, and professional development efforts can enhance the collective capacity and development towards greater efficacy of collaboratives to effect on-the-ground outcomes and leverage shared or pooled funding opportunities.
- **Promoting Continuous Evaluation:** Continued self-assessment and evaluation of collaborative process and performance can ensure adaptive management of collaboratives to meet emerging needs and opportunities.

**Accelerating the Scale and/or Rate of Water Quality Improvements:** The ultimate goal of the INSR program is to measurably increase the geographic scale and/or rate of implementation for priority water quality improvement practices, as identified through the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and associated WIPs, in a defined regional project focus or service area.

Proposed improvements to grow and enhance existing partnerships must reasonably and demonstrably result in accelerated water quality improvement and practice implementation efforts. NFWF also acknowledges that additional grant investments beyond these direct improvements to collaborative structures and functions are likely necessary to further accelerate on-the-ground implementation efforts, for example by directly funding new regional-scale outreach and implementation programs, piloting or adapting regional-scale incentive programs, and demonstrating joint restoration project financing and implementation approaches. INSR funding



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may be used to support these efforts; however, consistent with the program's goals to establish more sustainable mechanisms for future efforts, NFWF expects projects to clearly demonstrate how partners will pivot towards more sustainable, non-grant funding sources to finance ongoing implementation in the future.

NFWF is especially interested in efforts that accelerate water quality improvements associated with nonpoint source agricultural pollution, small and medium agricultural operations, and stormwater runoff from small and/or unregulated communities. All proposals must document how their proposal aligns with relevant state and local WIPs. Proposals that measurably increase implementation of priority practices and/or practices that are needed for accelerated implementation will be prioritized.

Special consideration will be afforded to proposed partnerships or networks that address one or more of the following specific strategies with the potential to advance transformational water quality improvement approaches:

**Managing Upland Agricultural Runoff through Farm-Scale Conservation Systems and Solutions:** Includes efforts to reduce water quality impacts while simultaneously maintaining or increasing profits, reducing costs, and enhancing financial performance of the region's farms through the implementation of best management practices that reduce pollution at the farm scale, increase cost-efficiency, and increase performance. Selected examples include:

- Soil health practices and management systems that combine improved tillage and/or pasture management, cover crops, crop and livestock rotations, and other practices to increase soil fertility while improving the capacity of crops and soils to reduce runoff and increase nutrient uptake.
- Precision nutrient management systems that fine-tune the rate, source, method, and timing of nutrient applications to maintain or increase crop yields, minimize nutrient input costs and nutrient losses to surface and groundwater.
- Certification, labeling, and other sustainable sourcing initiatives that provide price premiums and/or new markets for agricultural products produced in a manner that improves and protects water quality and/or habitats.
- "Whole-system" conservation that reduces pollution from crop and pasture lands, animal production areas, and protect or restore high-value natural resource areas like wetlands and riparian areas and significantly improve the environmental performance of the farm while maximizing public and private financial assistance programs.

For projects managing agricultural runoff, the most competitive applications will seek first to utilize existing federal, state, and local cost-share and incentive programs to finance implementation of water quality improvement practices, with NFWF funding for practice implementation used to strategically fill gaps in existing funding programs. Where NFWF funding is sought to cover all or a portion of costs for practice implementation, applicants must describe why other public programs are insufficient or otherwise inappropriate for financing proposed practice implementation.

**Managing Upland Urban Runoff through Green Stormwater Infrastructure**

**Improvements (GSI):** Includes efforts to assist local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community associations to improve urban and suburban stormwater management by



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implementing green stormwater infrastructure practices that capture, store, filter, and treat stormwater runoff. In limited cases, NFWF may also support urban floodplain and stream restoration for water quality improvement where existing or planned green stormwater infrastructure initiatives effectively control stormwater runoff from upland sources. Selected examples include:

- Integrating GSI approaches into capital improvement and maintenance programs for public works, parks and recreation, emergency management, education, transportation, community redevelopment, etc.
- Assisting multiple local governments at the regional or subwatershed scale in the demonstration and development of GSI projects and programs that mitigate stormwater impacts in communities experiencing rapid growth, especially those currently unregulated for stormwater management, collaborations of regulated and unregulated communities, and prioritized practices within watersheds that may include urban, agricultural, and other land uses.
- Increasing adoption of GSI practices on residential, commercial, and institutional properties through outreach and community-based social marketing strategies.

**Restoring Riparian and Freshwater Habitats through Forested Buffers, Floodplain and Wetland Reconnection, Stream Restoration and Habitat Improvements:** Includes efforts to restore degraded riparian systems to improve water quality, enhance aquatic habitat, and increase fish populations across the Chesapeake Bay region through a variety of actions including but not limited to: establishment of riparian forested buffers, livestock exclusion fencing, and associated practices like stream crossing and off-stream watering; reconnection of stream channels with historic floodplains and adjacent wetlands to further promote nutrient removal, attenuate erosive stormflows and increase resiliency of riparian systems, and restore streams in both urban and rural landscapes to control streambank erosion, increase in-stream nutrient processing, and provide food, cover, and habitat for priority species.

## PROJECT METRICS

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure greater consistency of project data provided by multiple grants, NFWF has provided a list of metrics in *Easygrants* for grantees to choose from for reporting. For the INSR program, awardees will be required to report both project-level metrics via *Easygrants* and more detailed site and practice-level data via [FieldDoc.org](https://www.fielddoc.org) (see below for additional details), as applicable. NFWF understands that applicants may utilize a variety of tools and methods to estimate proposed nutrient and sediment load reductions other than FieldDoc and simply requires sufficient justification in either the project narrative or *Easygrants* metrics interface detailing the basis for estimated load reductions.

For a complete list of applicable metrics, see **Appendix A**. We ask that applicants select only the most relevant metrics from this list for their project. It is in the applicant's best interest to be selective of the most meaningful and well-aligned metrics with the project objectives and outcomes. If you do not believe an applicable metric has been provided, please contact Sydney Godbey at [sydney.godbey@nfwf.org](mailto:sydney.godbey@nfwf.org) or (202) 857-0166, to discuss acceptable alternatives.



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## ELIGIBILITY

### Eligible and Ineligible Entities

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

### Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- ✗ Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases. NFWF acknowledges, however, that some projects may only be completed using NFWF funds to procure equipment. If this applies to your project, please contact the program staff listed in this RFP to discuss options.
- ✗ NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- ✗ NFWF funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts, for example in achieving municipal separate storm sewer system requirements.

## FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND MATCH

NFWF will award a total of \$7-10 million in grants through the INSR program in 2021. Awards will range from \$500,000 to \$1 million each, for an estimated 8-12 individual grant awards. These grants require non-federal matching contributions equal to the grant request. All 2021 INSR grants must be completed within three years of grant award.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

### Criteria #1 – Conservation Outcomes

- Project clearly and demonstrably increases the rate and/or scale of implementation of priority water quality improvement practices identified through the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, jurisdictional Watershed Implementation Plans, and local pollution reduction plans. Where possible and appropriate, the proposal contributes measurably to other, non-water quality outcomes outlined in the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement.
- Project results in meaningful growth and/or enhancement of existing partnerships working to improve water quality and outlines specific efforts to build and sustain motivation, efficient processes, core capacities, and ongoing evaluative efforts.



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- Project incorporates plans and approaches to implement, verify and sustain pollution load reductions and plan for their continuance beyond the timeframe of the grant.
- Project conveys a clear communications plan that will actively transfer and disseminate project-related information to appropriate audiences and relevant stakeholders within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with the goal of expanding adoption of successful approaches.

### Criteria #2 – Budget

- The quality and level of detail in the budget and budget narrative provide a clear and detailed understanding of the proposed funding request.
- Proposal demonstrates cost-effectiveness in achieving its proposed outcomes, considering both direct and indirect costs in the proposed budget.
- Proposed costs are reasonable based on the work plan, local or regional costs for similar activities, and commensurate with project outcomes.
- Budget clearly indicates the degree of partnership in conducting the proposed work.
- Proposed funding request is well leveraged by the partners and other contributors through cash-, in-kind, and other match.

### Criteria #3 – Technical

- Proposal provides specific goals that correlate with a clear, logical and achievable work plan, milestones, and timeline.
- Proposed project team has the core competencies necessary to implement the proposed activities and achieve the proposed outcomes as well as the commitment to engage technical experts necessary to ensure activities are scientifically and technically sound and feasible.
- Proposal demonstrates an understanding of necessary permitting and environmental compliance requirements and the ability to obtain necessary approvals consistent with the proposed work plan and timeline.
- Applicant organization has demonstrated an ability to manage and implement similar projects on time and within budget.

## OTHER

**Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions:** All INSR proposals must demonstrate reductions of nutrient and sediment pollution to local rivers and streams, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. To assist applicants in generating credible and consistent nutrient and sediment load reduction estimates, NFWF has partnered with the Chesapeake Commons and Maryland Department of Natural Resource to develop [FieldDoc](#), a user-friendly tool that allows consistent planning, tracking, and reporting of water quality improvement activities and associated nutrient and sediment load reductions from proposed grant projects.

FieldDoc currently includes functionality for a significant share of water quality improvement practices approved by the Chesapeake Bay Program for the purposes of TMDL crediting. When setting up proposed projects in FieldDoc, please be sure to list your application's 5-digit *Easygrants* number in the FieldDoc project title.

Upon grant award, NFWF will require all projects submitted under this solicitation to utilize FieldDoc for tracking and reporting of applicable water quality improvement activities during the



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course of their grant project. For technical support on FieldDoc utilization during proposal development, please contact Chesapeake Commons at [support@chesapeakecommons.org](mailto:support@chesapeakecommons.org).

**Monitoring** – NFWF may implement independent monitoring efforts in the future to measure the environmental outcomes from projects funded under this solicitation. Award recipients may be asked to facilitate granting of access to project sites for NFWF or its designees for future environmental monitoring purposes.

**Budget** – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF’s [Budget Instructions](#) cost categories. Federally-funded projects must be in compliance with [OMB Uniform Guidance](#) as applicable.

**Cost-Effectiveness** – Project includes a cost-effective budget that balances performance risk and efficient use of funds. Cost-effectiveness evaluation may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of either or both direct and indirect costs in the proposed budget. The federal government has determined that a *de minimis* 10% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for organizations without a NICRA, as such NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize **ALL** proposals with indirect rates above 10% for cost-effectiveness.

**Matching Contributions** – Matching Contributions consist of cash, contributed goods and services, volunteer hours, and/or property raised and spent for the Project during the Period of Performance. Larger match ratios and matching fund contributions from a diversity of partners are encouraged and will be more competitive during application review.

**Procurement** – If the applicant chooses to specifically identify proposed Contractor(s) for Services, an award by NFWF to the applicant does not constitute NFWF’s express written authorization for the applicant to procure such specific services noncompetitively. When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

**Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support** – Award recipients will be required to grant NFWF the right and authority to publicize the project and NFWF’s financial support for the grant in press releases, publications and other public communications. Recipients may also be asked by NFWF to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project.

**Receiving Award Funds** – Award payments are primarily reimbursable. Projects may request funds for reimbursement at any time after completing a signed agreement with NFWF. A request of an advance of funds must be due to an imminent need of expenditure and must detail how the funds will be used and provide justification and a timeline for expected disbursement of these funds.

**Compliance Requirements** – Projects selected may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act (state and federal), and National Historic Preservation Act. Documentation of compliance with these regulations must be approved prior to initiating activities that disturb or alter habitat or other features of the project site(s). Applicants should budget time and resources to obtain the needed approvals. As may be applicable, successful





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applicants may be required to comply with additional Federal, state or local requirements and obtain all necessary permits and clearances.

**Quality Assurance** – If a project involves significant monitoring, data collection or data use, grantees will be asked to prepare and submit quality assurance documentation ([www.epa.gov/quality](http://www.epa.gov/quality)). Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task.

**Permits** – Successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with any Federal, state or local requirements. Where projects involve work in the waters of the United States, NFWF strongly encourages applicants to conduct a permit pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers prior to submitting their proposal. In some cases, if a permit pre-application meeting has not been completed, NFWF may require successful applicants to complete such a meeting prior to grant award.

**Federal Funding** – The availability of federal funds estimated in this solicitation is contingent upon the federal appropriations process. Funding decisions will be made based on level of funding and timing of when it is received by NFWF.

## TIMELINE

Dates of activities are subject to change and contingent on the availability of funding. Please check the Program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information (<http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake>).

Applicant Webinar ( <a href="#">Registration</a> )	<i>Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 1:00 PM EST</i>
Letter of Interest Due Date	<i>Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 11:59 PM EST</i>
FieldDoc Webinar ( <a href="#">Registration</a> )	<i>Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1:00 PM EST</i>
Full Proposal Due Date	<i>Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 11:59 PM EST</i>
Awards Announced	<i>April 2021 (anticipated)</i>

## HOW TO APPLY

A Letter of Interest (LOI) is required to be eligible to submit a full proposal. LOIs must be submitted electronically to [stephanie.heidbreder@nfwf.org](mailto:stephanie.heidbreder@nfwf.org) no later than 11:59 PM Friday, January 15, limited to two pages, single-spaced, with no smaller than 10 point font. Prospective applicants are encouraged to submit LOIs prior to January 15, at their discretion, to support the most robust and timely feedback from NFWF on the project concept. NFWF will confirm receipt of the LOI submittal within 5 business days and subsequently schedule follow-up discussions with applicants to provide feedback no later than February 1, 2021. LOIs should address the following elements:

- 1. Water Quality:** Describe your envisioned approach to accelerating water quality improvements, including: (1) the specific practice(s) or watershed management approach(es) that will be advanced; (2) the proposed location(s) and target audience(s) or participants, and (3) the major objectives and prospective work plan activities and/or strategies.



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- 2. Partnership(s):** Describe the partnership(s) you envision for the project, including: (1) current mission or vision and primary entities involved (e.g. organizations, agencies, businesses, individuals) and (2) basic roles and responsibilities envisioned for each partner; and (3) how the proposal will strengthen the partnership's sustainability and impact, especially in advancing watershed restoration efforts.
- 3. Budget:** To the greatest extent possible, provide a summary of your prospective budget including: (1) preliminary funding request; (2) likely or potential sources of match or leverage; and (3) a general narrative describing the budget by major cost category.

For those invited to submit a full proposal, all full proposal materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Easygrants system.

1. Go to [easygrants.nfwf.org](http://easygrants.nfwf.org) to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information. Please disable the pop-up blocker on your internet browser prior to beginning the application process.
2. Once on your homepage, click the "Apply for Funding" button and select this RFP's "Funding Opportunity" from the list of options.
3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to at a later time for completion and submission.

## APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A PDF version of this RFP can be downloaded in the [Related Content Section](#).

A *Tip Sheet* is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded in the [Related Content Section](#). Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website's "Applicant Information" page (<http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/home.aspx>).

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact Jake Reilly ([jake.reilly@nfwf.org](mailto:jake.reilly@nfwf.org)), Stephanie Heidbreder ([stephanie.heidbreder@nfwf.org](mailto:stephanie.heidbreder@nfwf.org)), or Sydney Godbey ([sydney.godbey@nfwf.org](mailto:sydney.godbey@nfwf.org)) via e-mail or by phone at (202) 857-0166.

For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:

Easygrants Helpdesk

Email: [Easygrants@nfwf.org](mailto:Easygrants@nfwf.org)

Voicemail: 202-595-2497

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.

Include: Your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program to which you are applying, and a description of the issue.



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## Appendix A

### Applicable Metrics

### Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program

Strategy	Recommended Metric*	Metric Description/Instructions
<b>Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff (Required of all INSR applicants)</b>	<b>CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs N/P/S avoided (annually)</b>	Please use FieldDoc to develop estimates of the annual nitrogen, phosphorus, and/or sediment load reductions from your proposed project. Enter FieldDoc-generated pollutant load reduction totals in this field then upload your FieldDoc Project Summary in the "Uploads" section.
<b>Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff (select all that apply)</b>	<b>CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs</b>	Enter the total number of acres under agricultural or non-urban BMPs to reduce nutrient or sediment loading. Do not double-count individual acres which have multiple BMPs. If you're implementing load reduction practices on urban lands, report associated outcomes instead under the "CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Acres with BMPs" metric.
	<b>CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Acres with BMPs</b>	Enter total drainage area treated by stormwater BMPs. If you wish to also provide the extent of specific BMPs themselves (i.e. square feet of bioretention), please do so in the "Notes" section.
	<b>CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Volume stormwater prevented</b>	Enter the number of gallons of stormwater runoff treated through stormwater BMPs (e.g. runoff treatment volume).
	<b>CBSF- Green Infrastructure - number of trees planted</b>	Enter the number of trees planted.
<b>Riparian and Freshwater Habitat Restoration, Conservation, and Management (select all that apply)</b>	<b>CBSF - Riparian restoration - Miles restored</b>	Enter the number miles of riparian habitat restored through the implementation of forest or grass buffers that are at least 35 feet wide. If you're implementing livestock exclusion, report associated outcomes instead under the "CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock exclusion -- miles of fencing installed" metric.
	<b>CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed</b>	Enter the number of miles of livestock exclusion installed. Assume activities include exclusion fencing and a 35-foot forest or grass buffer, unless otherwise noted.
	<b>CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored</b>	Enter the number of miles of stream restored for nutrient and sediment load reduction, consistent with qualifying conditions and restoration protocols established by the Chesapeake Bay Program.
	<b>CBSF - Floodplain restoration - Acres restored</b>	Enter the number of acres of floodplain restored for nutrient and sediment load reduction, consistent with qualifying conditions and restoration protocols established by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Also report any associated linear stream restoration outcomes through the "CBSF - Stream restoration – Miles restored" metric.
	<b>CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored</b>	Enter the number of acres of wetland habitat restored, created, or enhanced.
	<b>CBSF - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened</b>	Enter the number of miles of stream habitat opened to fish populations through dam removals, culvert replacement, or other fish passage improvements. A mile opened is defined as number of new miles that restoration makes accessible for aquatic species.
	<b>CBSF - Instream habitat restoration - Miles restored</b>	Enter the number of miles of instream habitat restoration activities not otherwise creditable for nutrient and sediment load reduction, consistent with qualifying conditions and restoration protocols established by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Projects implementing qualifying stream restoration practices for TMDL crediting should instead report those outcomes instead through the "CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored" metric.
	<b>CBSF - Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement</b>	Enter the number of acres protected under long-term easement (permanent or >30-yr).



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Strategy	Recommended Metric*	Metric Description/Instructions
Estuarine and Tidal Habitat Restoration, Conservation, and Management (select all that apply)	CBSF - American oyster - Marine habitat restoration - Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of native oyster reef restored.
	CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of wetland habitat restored, created, or enhanced.
	CBSF - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened	Enter the number of miles of stream habitat opened to fish populations through dam removals, culvert replacement, or other fish passage improvements. A mile opened is defined as # of new miles that restoration makes accessible for aquatic species.
	CBSF - Erosion control - Miles restored	Enter the number of miles of tidal shoreline stabilized or restored through erosion control, including living shoreline restoration. Projects implementing qualifying stream restoration practices for TMDL crediting should instead report those outcomes instead through the "CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored" metric.
	CBSF - Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement	Enter the number of acres protected under long-term easement (permanent or >30-yr).
Building Capacity for Landscape-Scale Watershed and Habitat Outcomes (select all that apply)	CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached	Enter the number of individuals reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities. In the "Notes" section, provide a summary of how individuals are reached (newsletter mailing list total, training attendance, etc.).
	CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior	Enter the number of individuals measured as demonstrating changed behavior to benefit watershed restoration and protection. In the "Notes" section, provide a summary of how behavior change will be measured and tracked. If you have questions on whether your project contains behavior change activities, please contact NFWF staff.
	CBSF - Volunteer participation - # volunteers participating	Enter the number of volunteers participating in project implementation, outreach, and education activities.
Watershed and Habitat Planning, Prioritization, Design, and Permitting (select all that apply)	CBSF - Management or Governance Planning - # plans developed	Enter the number of conservation, watershed, and/or habitat management plans developed or improved. In the "Notes" section, provide specific information on the aggregate areal extent of associated plans (e.g. acres, square miles), and the number and areal extent of contributing planning activities.
	CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached	Enter the number of individuals reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities. In the "Notes" section, provide a summary of how individuals are reached (newsletter mailing list total, training attendance, etc.).
	CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior	Enter the number of individuals measured as demonstrating changed behavior to benefit watershed restoration and protection. In the "Notes" section, provide a summary of how behavior change will be measured and tracked. If you have questions on whether your project contains behavior change activities, please contact NFWF staff.

\* *Easygrants* metrics should be consistent with data entered into and/or derived from [FieldDoc.org](http://FieldDoc.org).