

## 2019 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION GRANTS

Pre-Proposal Due Date: **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by 11:59 PM EDT**

Full Proposal Due Date: **Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by 11:59 PM EDT**

#### 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 in order to accelerate the rate and geographic scale of implementation of water quality improvements specifically through the collaborative and coordinated efforts of sustainable, regional-scale<sup>1</sup> partnerships and networks of practitioners with a shared focus on water quality restoration and protection. Projects proposing to implement water quality improvements 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 instead through the separate Small Watershed Grants program Request for Proposals.

NFWF estimates awarding \$5-7 million in grants through the INSR program in 2019 through a two-stage application process, contingent on the availability of funding. Major funding comes from the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, with other important contributions by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Altria Group, and CSX.



#### GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

All projects must occur wholly within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and include implementation of water quality improvements at multiple sites within a defined regional project focus 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. (See Appendix A for additional guidance.)

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this RFP, NFWF is exercising a flexible definition of what constitutes an appropriate “regional scale” based on the unique aspects of relevant nutrient and sediment pollution source sectors, geographic focus, priority best management practices, 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 or rate of water quality improvement not otherwise possible without enhanced collaboration, coordination, and integration between organizational resources, capacities, and programs.



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## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

As the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership enters 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 at the rates and geographic scales necessary to achieve remaining pollution reductions by the TMDL's 2025 deadline. The desired result is a measurable increase in the rate and scale of implementation for priority water quality improvement practices identified through the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and associated [Watershed Implementation Plans \(WIPs\)](#).

NFWF is specifically soliciting proposals from robust partnership, collaborative, and network models ("partnerships"), which are an especially effective mechanism of achieving and sustaining desired rates of 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, 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 maturation of existing regional-scale partnerships with a shared focus on water quality restoration and protection, 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 through enhanced collaboration, coordination, and integration of these partnerships:

**Cultivating Partnership and Network Growth and Maturation:** Consistent with program goals for immediately accelerating 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 Small Watershed Grants program Request for Proposals. Potential applicants are encouraged to consult with NFWF to determine appropriateness of their existing partnership for the INSR program.

Pre-proposals must summarize both the current composition, structure, and function of existing partnerships, citing formal and informal mechanisms for collaboration and coordination, as well as enhancements in these partnerships that will be achieved through the proposed project. Pre-proposals must also establish a clear connection as to how proposed changes in collaborative or coordinated structures and/or functions will help to accelerate water quality improvements and improve long-term sustainability and durability of associated partnerships. Invited full proposals will be expected to expand on these details by providing a specific work plan for growth and

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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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maturation complete with timelines for major milestones and interim indicators of partnership growth and maturation.

While specific activities necessary to cultivate more effective and impactful partnerships will vary considerably, NFWF, in partnership with University of Virginia's Institute for Environmental Negotiation, has identified four key areas for investment:

- **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.
- **Establishing and Improving Effective Collaborative Processes:** Clear and explicit agreements on internal and external communication protocols, coordinative roles and responsibilities, decision-making processes, and conflict management approaches can contribute to more effective and transparent processes for collaborative action.
- **Enhancing Core Capacities:** Staffing of collaborative coordinators, building of requisite technical expertise, resource and power mapping, and professional development efforts can enhance the collective capacity 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 identified through the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and associated WIPs.

Proposed improvements to existing partnerships and networks must reasonably and demonstrably support accelerated water quality improvement 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 may be used to support these efforts; however, consistent with the program's goals to establish more sustainable mechanisms for future efforts, NFWF expects proposals to clearly demonstrate how partners will pivot towards more sustainable, non-grant funding sources to finance ongoing implementation in the future.

Specific emphasis will be placed on efforts to accelerate water quality improvements associated with nonpoint 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 suites 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-farm” conservation systems that reduce pollution from crop and pasture lands, animal production areas, and 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.

**Special Emphasis: Soil Health**

In partnership with NRCS and Altria, NFWF has secured up to \$3 million in dedicated 2019 funding to increase the adoption of soil health practices and management systems by agricultural producers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Through the INSR program, NFWF is specifically soliciting robust collaborative partnerships for soil health that integrate improved planning tools and measurement approaches, farmer education and outreach, technical assistance, and novel implementation approaches and incentives to drive increased adoption of core soil health practices.

Applicants interested in pursuing this funding opportunity are strongly encouraged to consult with NFWF staff early in the proposal development process.

For projects managing agricultural runoff, applicants should 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 implementing green stormwater infrastructure practices that capture, store, filter, and treat





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stormwater runoff closer to its sources. Example practices include rain gardens, bioswales and other bioretention approaches, conservation landscaping, and urban tree canopy. 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 projects and programs that mitigate stormwater impacts in communities experiencing rapid growth, especially those currently unregulated for stormwater management.
- Increasing adoption of GSI practices on residential, commercial, and institutional properties through community-based social marketing strategies.

**Restoring Riparian and Freshwater Habitats through Forested Buffers, Floodplain and Wetland Reconnection, and 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: implementation 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 (see below for additional entails), as applicable. While the table below includes all possible program metrics we ask that applicants select only the most relevant metrics from this list for their project. If you do not believe an applicable metric has been provided, please contact Claire Flynn at [claire.flynn@nfwf.org](mailto:claire.flynn@nfwf.org) or (202) 857-0166, to discuss acceptable alternatives.

Strategy	Recommended Metric
<b>Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff</b> (all applicable projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs N avoided (annually)*</li> <li>• CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs P avoided (annually)*</li> <li>• CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs sediment avoided (annually)*</li> </ul>



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Strategy	Recommended Metric
<b>Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff</b> (select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs*</li> <li>• CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Acres with BMPs*</li> <li>• CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Volume stormwater prevented</li> </ul>
<b>Riparian and Freshwater Habitat Restoration, Conservation, and Management</b> (select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBSF - Riparian restoration - Miles restored*</li> <li>• CBSF - Instream restoration - Miles restored*</li> <li>• CBSF - Erosion control - Miles restored*</li> <li>• CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed*</li> <li>• CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored*</li> <li>• CBSF - Floodplain restoration - Acres restored</li> <li>• CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored*</li> </ul>
<b>Estuarine and Tidal Habitat Restoration, Conservation, and Management</b> (select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBSF - American oyster - Marine habitat restoration - Acres restored</li> <li>• CBSF - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened</li> <li>• CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored*</li> <li>• CBSF - Erosion control - Miles restored*</li> </ul>
<b>Building Capacity for Landscape-Scale Watershed and Habitat Outcomes</b> (select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached</li> <li>• CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior</li> <li>• CBSF - Volunteer participation - # volunteers participating</li> </ul>
<b>Watershed and Habitat Planning, Prioritization, Design, and Permitting</b> (select all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBSF - Management or Governance Planning - # plans developed</li> <li>• CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached</li> <li>• CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior</li> </ul>

\* Selected *Easygrants* metrics should be consistent with data entered into and/or derived from FieldDoc.org.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Eligible and Ineligible Entities

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

### Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- ✗ 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 \$5-7 million in grants through the INSR program in 2019. Awards will range from \$750,000 to \$1 million each, for an estimated 6-8 individual grant awards. These grants require non-federal matching contributions equal to the grant request. All 2019 INSR grants must be completed within three years of grant award.



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## EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

**Nutrient and Sediment Load Reduction** – Project provides quantifiable improvements in water quality and contributes toward meeting pollution load reductions expressed in Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), and broader conservation goals and outcomes outlined in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, as appropriate. Project measurably increases the geographic scale and/or rate of implementation for priority water quality improvement practices identified through the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and associated Watershed Implementation Plans.

**Geographic Scale** – Project demonstrates achievement of water quality improvements at meaningful geographic scales including the watershed or subwatershed, multi-municipality, county or multi-county, or other relevant regional scale. Proposed geographic scale appropriately matches relevant nutrient and sediment pollution source sectors, priority best management practices, and existing individual and collaborative organizational structures and service areas, among other considerations.

**Partnership Context** – Proposal clearly includes an existing water quality-focused partnership, identifies existing partnership members and participants, history of partnership development, overarching partnership structure and functions, and the roles of individual partnership participants in advancing associated water quality improvement activities.

**Partnership Growth and/or Maturation** – Project results in meaningful growth and/or maturation of existing water quality-focused partnerships and demonstrates significant potential for long-term sustainability of regional partnerships through the development or improvement of formal mechanisms for ongoing collaboration and coordination.

**Partnership and Community Engagement** – Project partnership includes a diverse set of relevant regional and local stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, integration into local programs and policies, and community acceptance of proposed restoration actions. Project identifies relevant external stakeholders necessary to strengthen affected water quality improvement activities and provides a sound strategy for recruitment and/or engagement of these new partners.

**Transferability and Dissemination Plans** – Project includes clear plans to actively transfer and disseminate project-related information to appropriate audiences and relevant stakeholders within the Chesapeake Bay watershed through multiple communications mechanisms, with the goal of expanding adoption of successful approaches and integration into government programs and policies (e.g., state and federal cost share, MS4 program delivery, etc.).

**Technical Merit, Work Plan, and Budget** – Project is technically sound, feasible, cost-effective, and the pre-proposal sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design and implementation to ensure activities are technically-sound and feasible. Applicants are encouraged to provide documentation of technical assistance either received or committed to by appropriate state and federal agencies, academics and consultants.



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Upon completion of pre-proposal review, NFWF will invite a selected number of applicants to submit full proposals for award consideration that provide further detail on planned activities, budgetary resources, timelines for major milestones and interim indicators of partnership growth and maturation, and expected accomplishments. NFWF staff will work with these selected applicants during full proposal development process to refine proposed work plans and budgets based on feedback generated during pre-proposal review and identified opportunities to strengthen or improve proposed project activities. Those not invited for full proposal submittal will not be eligible for program funding.

## 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. Unless otherwise approved by NFWF staff, NFWF expects all projects to utilize FieldDoc to calculate estimated load reductions included in their application. 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 course of their grant project. For technical support on FieldDoc utilization during the pre-proposal or proposal development process, please contact Erin Hofmann with the Chesapeake Commons at [hofmann@chesapeakecommons.org](mailto:hofmann@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.

**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. In general, applicants may consider matching contributions raised or spent on or after January 1, 2019 as eligible under the 2019 INSR program.

**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





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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 (min. 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.

**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 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)) prior to starting this work. Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task. Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task if appropriate. For more information about NFWF’s Stewardship Fund Quality Assurance process, visit [http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/Pages/quality\\_assurance.aspx#.VO-S5vnF9KY](http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/Pages/quality_assurance.aspx#.VO-S5vnF9KY).

**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.

**Good Standing Policy:** All applicants with active grants from NFWF must be in good standing in terms of reporting requirements, expenditure of funds, and QAPPs (if required). In addition, NFWF may also consider an applicant’s standing under grant programs administered by external partners in determining performance-based qualifications for proposed grantees. Active grantees with questions on their current standing are encouraged to contact NFWF staff in advance of submitting applications.

## 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>Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2:00pm EDT</i>
FieldDoc Webinar ( <a href="#">Registration</a> )	<i>Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am EDT</i>
Pre-Proposal Due Date	<i>Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:59PM EDT</i>
Pre-Proposal Review Period	<i>May – July</i>
Full Proposal Invitation	<i>Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup></i>
Full Proposal Due Date	<i>Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:59PM EDT</i>
Awards Announced	<i>September (anticipated)</i>

## HOW TO APPLY

All application 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.
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 at <http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake>.

A *Tip Sheet* is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded at <http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake>. 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 Claire Flynn ([claire.flynn@nfwf.org](mailto:claire.flynn@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.



## APPENDIX A

### Navigating NFWF’s Chesapeake Bay Business Plan Mapping Portal

NFWF has published a [mapping portal](#) to assist applicants in identifying alignment of planned activities and further focusing activities, where possible, within NFWF’s outcome-specific priority areas. The portal includes the ability to display separate priority area maps for each of NFWF’s priority outcome areas, including water quality, Eastern brook trout, American black duck, river herring, and Eastern oysters and identify areas of overlap between multiple priority outcomes.

Upon arriving at the portal landing page, users can immediately begin exploring the map by visiting the ‘Details’ menu on the left-hand of the landing page. Layers for each priority outcome can then be turned on and off by clicking the check box for each layer under the ‘Content’ tab under the ‘Details’ menu. Advanced users can also display the legend and detailed attribute data tables and change the style (i.e. color, transparency) of each priority outcome layer directly from the ‘Content’ tab. To quickly see a legend for each displayed layer, users can simply select the ‘Legend’ tab under the ‘Details’ menu.

