

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

F26AS00018 - NAWCA 2026 Canada Grants

Funding Opportunity Number

F26AS00018

## Table of Contents

BASIC INFORMATION.....	1
ELIGIBILITY .....	3
Cost Sharing Requirement .....	4
GET READY TO APPLY .....	4
Required System Registrations .....	4
PROGRAM OVERVIEW .....	4
Program Goals.....	4
Program Description .....	5
Legislative Authority .....	5
Type of Award .....	5
PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION .....	5
Application Content and Format.....	5
Application Documents.....	6
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES .....	8
Address to Request Application Package .....	8
Submission Dates and Times .....	8
Submission Instructions .....	8
APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....	9
Eligibility Review .....	9
Merit Review.....	9
Review and Selection Process.....	10
Risk Review .....	10
AWARD NOTICES .....	10
POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION .....	11
Administration and National Policy Requirements .....	11
Reporting.....	11

### BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** F26AS00018

**Assistance Listing Number(s):** 15.623

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$45,000,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 15

**Award Ceiling:** \$0

**Award Floor:** \$0

**Cost Sharing Required?**

Yes

**Closing Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM, ET, on the listed application due date.

**OMB Control Number:** [1018-0100](#)

**Have Questions?**

Contact the Coordinator for the NAWCA Program in Canada, [Callie McMunigal@fws.gov](mailto:Callie_McMunigal@fws.gov)

**Executive Summary**

The goal of the NAWCA program in Canada is to promote partnerships between public agencies and groups interested in:

- Protecting, improving, restoring, and managing an appropriate distribution and variety of wetland ecosystems and other habitats for wetlands-associated migratory birds and other fish and wildlife in North America;
- maintaining and improving the current distribution of wetlands-associated migratory bird populations; and
- sustaining an abundance of waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) and other populations of wetlands-associated migratory birds consistent with the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Waterbird Conservation Plan for the Americas, Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, and other international obligations contained in the treaties and migratory bird conventions and other agreements with Canada, Mexico, and other countries.
- The program requires a minimum 1:1 non-federal match. At least 50% of the match must be from U.S. Sources.

Proposals should demonstrate how the activities of partners involved in a wetland conservation project will encourage sustainable and effective programs for the long-term conservation of wetlands-associated migratory birds. The Act defines wetlands conservation projects as:

- The acquisition of real property interests in lands or waters, including water rights, of a wetland ecosystem and associated habitat if the obtaining of such interest is subject to terms and conditions that will ensure that the real property will be administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and the migratory birds and other fish and wildlife dependent thereon;
- The restoration, management, or enhancement of wetland ecosystems and associated habitats for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife species, wherein these activities will be conducted

on lands and waters that will be administered for their long-term conservation and for the benefit of migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife that depend on them.

The NAWCA Program for wetlands conservation and management grants in Canada is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program. Thirteen partner organizations make up the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and participate in the review and assessment of proposals. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) support this program by providing input in the review and assessment of proposals.

For Canada Instructions (scoring criteria Appendix A), Grant Administration Standards, and Eligibility Criteria, refer to the documents attached to this notice of funding opportunity. All documents are also available at <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-canada-grants>

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Eligible Applicants**

State governments

County governments

City or township governments

Special district governments

Independent school districts

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

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

Small businesses

### **Additional Information on Eligibility**

For more information on NAWCA grants in Canada, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-canada-grants>

### **Restrictions and Requirements for Non-U.S. Entities or Projects**

- We do not fund [countries supporting terrorism subject to U.S. sanctions](#).
- We do not fund [countries under U.S. Treasury sanctions without licenses](#).
- You must get all required approvals for work outside the U.S. We are not responsible for your compliance with local rules.

- For projects over \$500,000, you may need to comply with [2 CFR 175.105\(b\)](#) before we make an award.

## Cost Sharing Requirement

### Cost Sharing Required?

Yes

The program requires a minimum 1:1 non-federal match. At least 50% of the match must be from U.S. Sources.

## GET READY TO APPLY

### Required System Registrations

#### Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

**The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.**

**To register in SAM.gov**, go to the [SAM.gov website](#) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.
- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

### GRANTSOLUTIONS

This program accepts applications through GrantSolutions.gov. You must register with GrantSolutions. See [Submission Instructions](#).

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Program Goals

- The NAWCA Program in Canada promotes partnerships between public agencies and groups interested in conserving, enhancing, and restoring an appropriate distribution and variety of wetland ecosystems and other habitats for wetlands-associated migratory birds and other fish and wildlife in North America; maintaining and improving the current distributions of wetlands-associated migratory bird populations; and maintaining an abundance of waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) and other populations of wetlands-associated migratory birds consistent with the objectives of the North American

Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Waterbird Conservation Plan for the Americas, Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, and other international obligations contained in the treaties and migratory bird conventions and other agreements with Canada, Mexico, and other countries.

For additional goals and proposal information: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-canada-grants>

## Program Description

Proposals should demonstrate how the activities of partners involved in the project will encourage sustainable and effective wetland conservation for the long-term conservation of wetlands-associated migratory birds. Allowable activities include acquisition of real property interests, and the restoration, management, and/or enhancement of wetland ecosystems and associated habitat. All costs must be directly linked to eligible acquired, restored, enhanced, or managed acres that are completed during the project period. For further allowable activities for grant and match, review the Canada Grant Administration Standards and Eligibility Criteria documents.

NAWCA wetlands conservation grants in Canada are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program. Thirteen partner organizations make up the North American Wetlands Conservation (NAWC) Council and participate in the review and assessment of proposals. For Instructions (scoring criteria Appendix A), Canada Grant Administration Standards, and Eligibility Criteria, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-canada-grants>

Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

## Legislative Authority

North American Wetlands Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. §4401 et seq.

## Type of Award

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

## PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

### Application Content and Format

#### Pre-Application Requirements

Prior to applying, applicants should review presidential actions found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/> and DOI Secretary's Orders found at: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>. By applying in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all currently effective and applicable executive orders and secretary's orders, including but not limited to the Executive Order titled Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the Executive Order and Secretary's order titled Restoring Truth and

Sanity to American History. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

**Application Documents**

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance  Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative’s signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in <a href="#">Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying</a>	Required from all applicants
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs	Required for non-construction projects
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award purpose,</li> <li>• Activities to be performed,</li> <li>• Expected deliverables or outcomes,</li> <li>• Intended beneficiaries,</li> </ul> Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	Required from all applicants

**Project Narrative**

Project narrative consists of elements captured within the NAWCA Canada's proposal outline that is mandatory for all applicants to complete. A fillable proposal outline is included with this notice of funding opportunity.

**Budget Narrative**

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party

contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget narrative consists of elements captured within the NAWCA Canada's proposal outline that is mandatory for all applicants to complete. A fillable proposal outline is included with this notice of funding opportunity.

#### **Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:**

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

#### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:**

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

#### **Other Required Information**

Key personnel, project location maps, formatting requirements, signed match letters, negotiated indirect rate agreements, and page limits are explained within the Canada Instructions.

**The following must be emailed to [dbhc@fws.gov](mailto:dbhc@fws.gov) by the application deadline:**

- GrantSolutions Application Number
- GIS Shapefile of Project Area and Tract(s) as a .zip file
- Two to Five Photos of Proposed Project Areas and Activities that Highlight NAWCA Benefits (for FWS use in publications and documents)

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

### Address to Request Application Package

For instructions on how to apply for a NAWCA grant in Canada, the grant administration standards, proposal template, and eligibility criteria, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-canada-grants>

For questions, email the Coordinator of the Canada Program, Callie McMunigal, at [Callie\\_McMunigal@fws.gov](mailto:Callie_McMunigal@fws.gov)

### Submission Dates and Times

**Closing Date for Applications:** 06/11/2026

#### Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM, ET, on the listed application due date.

### Submission Instructions

#### Apply Through GrantSolutions

To apply through [GrantSolutions](#), follow these steps:

1. **Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) with:
  - Subject: New Organization Request
  - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
  - Entity type
  - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
  - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
  - Address
  - Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone)This information should be the same as entered on the entity's SAM.gov profile.
2. **Assign system user roles.** Follow the [GrantSolutions "Recipient user" registration instructions](#). Submit a separate Recipient User Account Request form for each official to be assigned a system role. At minimum, the Authorizing Official (ADO) and Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD) must be assigned.

3. **Log in.** GrantSolutions requires users to log in through Login.gov. Each user must create a [Login.gov](#) account. For instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
4. **Find and apply to this Funding Opportunity.** After logging in, click on either the “Begin an application” link (first time applicants) or the “Funding Opportunity” link to go to the “Competing Announcements-Application Kits” list screen. Search the list for this Funding Opportunity’s title and number. Click on the associated “Apply” link. Follow the prompts from there. Required applications forms are provided with the Funding Opportunity in GrantSolutions unless otherwise indicated on the Required Forms table above.
5. For detailed instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
6. **Need help?** Find help topics and contact information on the [GrantSolutions Contact Us page](#).

## APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

For full NAWCA Canada Eligibility criteria is included with this notice of funding opportunity, but also available at <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-canada-grants>

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

### Merit Review

The merit review scoring criteria for proposals in Canada are detailed in Appendix A (page 41) of the Canada Proposal Instructions, which can be found within this notice of funding opportunity or at <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-canada-grants>

## Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

Reviewers assign points based on information in the proposal outlined within the scoring criteria in the Canada Instructions. There are seven technical assessment questions (TAQs) for scoring to assess the proposal's activities, objectives, and goals in relation to NAWCA and its application in Canada. Reviewers evaluate the different TAQs within the proposal in relation to the group of proposals under review. Applicants are encouraged to review the Instructions to see how scored sections within the proposal are answered and incorporated into the Notice of Award. Also, applicants can review Section H: Reports and Other Documentation within the NAWCA Canada Grant Administration Standards for required reporting information. Both documents are included with this notice of funding opportunity but also available for download at

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

Prior to conducting the comprehensive merit review, an initial review will be performed to determine whether: (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the NOFO has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements of the NOFO are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the program objectives of the NOFO (program determination); and (5) the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable executive and secretary orders, including the President's executive order on Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the executive order and Secretary order on Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. If an applicant fails to meet the requirements or objectives of the NOFO, or does not provide sufficient information for review, the applicant will be considered nonresponsive and eliminated from further review.

## Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#).

## AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant's own risk.

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** 04/30/2027

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 04/27/2029

The FY2026 awards will potentially be issued in April 2027 and period of performance will be determined once the award is issued within GrantSolutions. Unsuccessful applicants will receive an email from DBHC on the status of their proposal and DBHC will change intake review status and complete business review for unsuccessful submissions. USFWS regulations, policies, and guidance state that awards should have a one- to two-year initial period of performance, which may be extended to a total duration of five years. Applicants should include a description of grant objectives with the expected timeline necessary to accomplish the objectives. When determining the period of performance for each successful grant, DBHC will consider the information presented in each proposal.

## POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

### Administration and National Policy Requirements

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

See the [FWS General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for national policy requirements for FWS awards. Special terms and conditions will be detailed in award notices.

For NAWCA specific grant reporting requirements, refer to the NAWCA Canada Grant Administration Standards.

Additionally, all real property acquisition must comply with regulations in the Uniform Guidance of Title 2 CFR [Part 200](#) and [Part 1402](#)

### Reporting

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),

- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and 2 CFR 170 requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation, and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts and consortiums equal to or over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.

The following information is collected with the proposal:

**Trafficking Statement:** [2 CFR §175.15](#) applies to awards to private entities as defined in 2 CFR §175.25(d), and to awards to States, local governments, Indian tribes, or foreign public entities, if the recipient could provide funding under the award to a private entity subrecipient. Recipients receiving more than \$500,000 for activities outside the U.S. must comply with the plan and certification requirements in 2 CFR 175.105(b) before receiving an award and submit an annual certification each year the award is in effect. *Do not remove above statement. Please include the appropriate statement below in your response.*

- [Organization] complies with the statutory requirement under 2 CFR175.105(b).
- [Organization] does not comply with the statutory requirement under 2 CFR175.105(b).

### **Other Information**

Contact the Coordinator for NAWCA projects in Canada, Callie McMunigal, for final reporting information specific to NAWCA.