

National Park Service

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Exploring and Enhancing Outdoor and Heritage Tourism in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Announcement # P27AS00032

Table of Contents

BASIC INFORMATION.....	2
ELIGIBILITY	3
Cost Sharing Requirement	4
GET READY TO APPLY	4
Required System Registrations	4
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	5
Program Goals	5
Program Description	6
Legislative Authority	9
Type of Award	9
PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION.....	9
Application Contents and Format	9
Application Documents	11
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES.....	15
Address to Request Application Package	15
Submission Dates and Times	15
Submission Instructions	16
APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....	16
Eligibility Review	16
Merit Review	17
Review and Selection Process	19
Risk Review	21
AWARD NOTICES	21
POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION	21
Administration and National Policy Requirements	21
Reporting.....	23

BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: Announcement #P27AS00032

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.930

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$1,000,000

Expected Number of Awards: 26

Award Ceiling: \$50,000

Award Floor: \$10,000

Award Floor/Ceiling Explanation:

An estimated range of \$10,000 to \$50,000 of funding is anticipated for each award. The amount of funding available per award for this NOFO will be determined as part of the application review process based on applications received and funding made available through appropriations.

Cost Sharing Required?

No

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM, ET, on the listed application due date. Each activity or project under anticipated agreement will be treated individually, with more detail through award negotiations, including project statements, project plans and budgets developed cooperatively between the NPS and the non-Federal entity.

Have Questions?

Programmatic Contact: Samantha Utt, Project Coordinator, Chesapeake_grants@nps.gov

Administrative Contact: Monica Marcus, Financial Assistance Awarding Officer,
FinancialAssistance_Chesapeake@nps.gov.

Executive Summary

Goal: Encourage outdoor recreation and natural, historical, and cultural tourism that expands access to and awareness of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and fosters economic development of communities.

Objectives

NPS Chesapeake Gateways is offering this competitive grant opportunity to strengthen a community's ability to offer or enhance outdoor recreation and natural, historical, and cultural

tourism that connects visitors and residents to the Chesapeake Bay watershed as detailed in the *Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998*.

Through this grant opportunity, NPS Chesapeake Gateways will:

- Enhance outdoor recreation and natural, historical, and cultural tourism in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Support projects that link outdoor and heritage tourism to economic impact.
- Celebrate gateway communities that welcome and invite locals and visitors to explore authentic Chesapeake Gateways Places and stories through outdoor recreation and natural, historical, and cultural experiences.

Grant Theme

Chesapeake Gateways is a network of places that provide opportunities to explore outdoor recreation and authentic natural, historical, and cultural experiences of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Included in this network are diverse recreational, natural, cultural, historical, and recreational sites, trails, museums, parks, wildlife refuges, interpretive and orientation facilities, and associated programs. These places, and Chesapeake Gateways as a whole, serve as entry points and the key guide for experiencing the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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)
- ☒ Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- ☒ Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- ☒ Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- ☒ Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- ☒ Private institutions of higher education
- ☒ For profit organization other than small businesses
- ☒ Small businesses

Additional Information on Eligibility

PLEASE NOTE: Projects that take place outside the watershed are not eligible for consideration. A link to all the counties in the watershed can be found in Appendix A. A full map can be [found here](#).

Chesapeake Gateways Network Requirement: The applicant must be a non-federal Chesapeake Gateways Network member (Place, Experience, Community, or Programmatic Partner). To become a Chesapeake Gateways Network member, prospective applicants need to submit a self-nomination through the Chesapeake Gateways Network portal: [Join the Chesapeake Gateways Network - Chesapeake Bay Watershed \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#).

Foreign Entities or Projects: This program does not provide funding to foreign entities or for projects conducted outside the United States.

Excluded Parties: NPS conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The NPS cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

No

Non-Federal cost sharing is not required to be eligible for an award under this NOFO.

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](#).

GRANTS.GOV

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](#) so once you receive your UEI return to Grants.gov to [register](#) with Grants.gov. Please allow for 30 days to register and set up a Workspace in Grants.gov. See **Submission Instructions** section below for additional details.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Goals

Goal: Encourage outdoor recreation and natural, historical, and cultural tourism that expands access to and awareness of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and fosters community economic development.

Objectives

NPS Chesapeake Gateways is offering this competitive grant opportunity to strengthen a community's ability to offer or enhance outdoor recreation and natural, historical, and cultural tourism that connects visitors and residents to the Chesapeake Bay watershed as detailed in the *Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998*.

Through this grant opportunity, NPS Chesapeake Gateways will:

- Enhance and expand outdoor recreation and natural, historical, and cultural tourism in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Support projects that link outdoor and heritage tourism to economic impact.
- Celebrate gateway communities that welcome and invite locals and visitors to explore authentic Chesapeake places and stories through outdoor recreation and natural, historical, and cultural experiences.

Indicators of outputs and outcomes will be collected and aggregated from the submitted interim and final reports. Indicators related to this opportunity may include:

- # of visitor and residents served
- # of events held
- # of public access points available for outdoor recreation and tourism experiences
- % increase of public access points available for outdoor recreation and tourism experiences
- # of types of outdoor recreation and tourism experiences
- \$ observable, direct economic impact
- % occupancy of local venues, programs, hotels, and restaurants
- feedback provided by visitors and residents

Applicants are encouraged to prioritize projects and events in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (America250). This may include, but is not limited to, projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

Program Description

Background

For nearly thirty years, NPS Chesapeake Gateways has been a key partner in the collective efforts to connect visitors and residents to the stories, places and experiences that makes the Chesapeake special. Stories, places, and experiences are centered around the program's overarching interpretive themes found in the Chesapeake Gateways Network Framework. Interpretive themes can be found in Appendix B.

The NPS Chesapeake Gateways is a partnership network and a community assistance program that has successfully provided innovative and impactful technical and financial assistance to support a wide range of partner work from network collaboration, interpretive planning to exhibits and signage to youth programs to watertrails development, to travel and marketing programs and public access site planning and implementation.

National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Gateways inspires and helps people discover, experience, and connect with the natural and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities of the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers, landscapes, and communities across its watershed. We work with people and partners to conserve and steward special places important to communities, visitors and the nation, for this and future generations.

Public Purpose

Grant submissions must clearly provide a public purpose meaning they provide facilities, programs, or services for the benefit of the public in support of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act. These grants should represent that public purpose by identifying, conserving, restoring, and or interpreting natural, recreational, historical, and or cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; identifying and utilizing the collective resources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay; linking Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other connections; and/or developing and establishing Chesapeake Bay Watertrails comprising water routes and connections to Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and other land resources within the Chesapeake Bay watershed in order to contribute to local economic impact.

Chesapeake Gateways Network Requirement

Chesapeake Gateways is a partnership park and assistance network, providing opportunities to enjoy, learn about and help conserve the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Included in the network are diverse natural, cultural, historical and recreational sites, trails, museums, parks, refuges and interpretive and orientation facilities. These places serve as entry points and the key guide for experiencing the Chesapeake watershed.

Submitted projects are meant to reflect community needs and support through a collaboration among different partners. At a minimum, the applicant must be a non-federal Chesapeake Gateways Network member (Place or Experience), or from an organization that is pursuing self-nomination to be a Chesapeake Gateways Place or Experience. Collaborations with other

partners, especially other Chesapeake Gateways Places or Experiences, indicate broader community support.

Please note: Applicants with a pending Chesapeake Gateways Network member self-nomination that is rejected as a Chesapeake Gateway Network member would be ineligible to move forward to merit review.

To get a list of current or pending Chesapeake Gateways Network member by state, see: <https://www.nps.gov/locations/chesapeakebaywatershed/ven-pending.htm>.

To become a Chesapeake Gateways Network member, prospective partners or applicants need to submit self-nomination through the Chesapeake Gateways portal: [Become a Chesapeake Gateways Place - Chesapeake Bay Watershed \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#). Once the self-nomination is received and approved, the status will be added to the current or pending list mentioned above. Self-nominations do not need to be approved by the application deadline, but any applicants or partners that have their self-nominations rejected after the deadline would be ineligible to move forward to merit review.

Grant Categories

This grant opportunity provides support in two categories:

a) Linking Tourism and Economic Impact Projects

Proposals submitted should demonstrate that the projects reflect a community need and link local recreation, culture, history, and/or nature tourism to economic impact of the community that support a one or more of the Interpretive themes found in Appendix B to honor the history of this great Nation within the Chesapeake.

Projects can:

- Enhance visitor experience amenities and/or improve the overall visitor experience for communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Enhance local tourism and economic development capacity.
- Facilitate visitor experiences that increase duration and depth of visit.
- Commemorate and promote local recreation and history.
- Transform main streets for long-term value and benefit.
- Support Tribal Nation tourism development and/or connect visitors to Indigenous history and culture.
- Make visitor experiences and facilities more physically and programmatically accessible for all ages and abilities.
- Improve and/or promote connectivity between outdoor spaces or facilities and communities, such as between waterways and land trails, parks, museums, and target neighborhoods.
- Develop and expand recreational and heritage experiences in the watershed.

The following types of projects will not be selected for funding:

- Construction projects (other than structural improvements)
- Archeology projects
- Land acquisition
- Building acquisition
- Endowments

Funds cannot be used to:

- Purchase alcohol.
- To lobby.
- To support any unallowable costs as described in 2 CFR 200.

Award Range: \$25,000-\$50,000

b) Network/Community Events, including America at 250

Event proposals, including in celebration of America's 250th birthday, should demonstrate how the event or festival celebrates the rich cultural, historical, natural, or recreational legacy and reflect one or more of the Interpretive themes found in Appendix B to honor the history of this great Nation within the Chesapeake. Public events and festivals should encourage exploration and enjoyment of the wealth of cultural, historical, natural, and recreational experiences available in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

These events may be, but are not limited to:

- Main streets transformation in advance of key events.
- Events in partnership with the community.
- Events that:
- Actively serve people of all ages and abilities.
- Highlight local products or foods or food systems (farming, oystering, etc.) or trades that connect to the area's history.
- Expand economic development to include overnight stays and/or use of a variety of local assets and amenities.
- Use art and performance to highlight the richness of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Funds cannot be used to:

- Purchase alcohol for the events.
- To lobby at the events.
- To support any unallowable costs as described in 2 CFR 200.

Award Range: \$10,000-\$20,000

PLEASE NOTE: Other than structural improvements, construction projects or purchase of buildings are not supported by this NOFO. Also, projects that will result in ground disturbance must include appropriate cost estimates in the budget for all necessary permitting and NEPA/Section 106 compliance assessments.

Recipients are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (America250). This may include, but is not limited to, projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

Legislative Authority

Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (Pub. L. [105-312](#), title V, Sec.502(a), Oct. 30, 1998)
TITLE V—CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE: This title may be cited as the “Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998”.

SEC. 502. CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS.

(a) CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in cooperation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”), shall provide technical and financial assistance, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector—

(A) to identify, conserve, restore, and interpret natural, recreational, historical, and cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed;

(B) to identify and utilize the collective resources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay;

(C) to link the Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other connections as determined by the Secretary;

(D) to develop and establish Chesapeake Bay Watertrails comprising water routes and connections to Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and other land resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and

(E) to create a network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails.

Type of Award

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

Other Information: Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new Federal awards.

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Application Contents and Format

Pre-Application Requirements

Prior to submitting an application, 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 submitting an application in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all current and applicable executive and secretary orders, including but not limited to the President's

EO on *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* as well as the EO and SO on *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.

Chesapeake Gateways Network Requirement

Submitted projects are meant to reflect community needs and support through a collaboration among different partners. At a minimum, the applicant must be a non-federal Chesapeake Gateways Network member (Place, Experience, Community, or Programmatic Partner), or from an organization that is pursuing self-nomination to be a Chesapeake Gateways Place or Experience. Collaborations with other partners, especially other Chesapeake Gateways Places or Experiences, indicate broader community support.

Please note: Applicants with a pending Chesapeake Gateways Network member self-nomination that is rejected as a Chesapeake Gateway Place would be ineligible to move forward to merit review.

To get a list of current or pending Chesapeake Gateways Network members by state, see: <https://www.nps.gov/locations/chesapeakebaywatershed/ven-pending.htm>.

To become a Chesapeake Gateways Network member, prospective partners or applicants need to submit self-nomination through the Chesapeake Gateways portal: [Join the Chesapeake Gateways Network - Chesapeake Bay Watershed \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#). Once the self-nomination is received and approved, the status will be added to the current or pending list mentioned above. Self-nominations do not need to be approved by the application deadline, but any applicants or partners that have their self-nominations rejected after the deadline would be ineligible to move forward to merit review.

Application Support

Chesapeake Gateway Grants Webpage

Please go to the Chesapeake Gateways Grants webpage to access application information, frequently asked questions (FAQ), training schedule, and other resources: <https://www.nps.gov/locations/chesapeakebaywatershed/grants.htm>.

Grant Webinars

The NPS Chesapeake Gateways Office will be holding trainings on the grant opportunity to assist in understanding the components of the application and submission process. Current available training dates are listed on the Grants webpage at <https://www.nps.gov/locations/chesapeakebaywatershed/grants.htm>. Future trainings may be added.

To be alerted to future webinars, send an email with your contact information to Chesapeake_Grants@nps.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

NPS Chesapeake Gateways has compiled a list of frequently asked questions. They can be found on the Grants webpage: <https://www.nps.gov/locations/chesapeakebaywatershed/grants.htm>.

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 Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying .	Required from all applicants
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs (online form included in the application)	Required from all applicants
SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs Other than structural improvements, construction projects are not supported through this NOFO.	Required for construction projects
SF-429 (Cover Page & Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property Note: The SF-429 forms are only available in the Grants.gov Forms Repository . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required if requesting to acquire, improve, or furnish real property.
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.

FORMS/ASSURANCES/CERTIFICATIONS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: • Award purpose, • Activities to be performed, • Expected deliverables or outcomes, • Intended beneficiaries, • Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	Required from all applicants
Detailed Budget Note: A sample template is provided in Appendix C but use of this template is not required. Appendix D defines the cost categories listed in the template.	Required from all applicants

Project Narrative

The proposal is a narrative description that should specifically address each of the review criteria. (See Merit Review Criteria) The proposal text must be no longer than 8 pages, no smaller than font size 11, and have 1-inch margins. The 8-page limit includes all text, figures, references. (Project team resumes, Forms SF-424, SF-424A, and the statement of indirect charges (NICRA) are not counted as part of the page limit.) Additionally, only information that is pertinent to the proposal should be included. Hyperlinks to external information will not be considered.

Narrative Components

- **Project Overview**
 1. Purpose, Goal(s), Objective(s), and Grant Category.
 2. Deliverable(s) - specific product(s) or project outcome(s)
 3. Project Location within the watershed (**Please note: projects outside the watershed will not be considered.**)
 4. Identify the Chesapeake Gateways Place that will serve as a project partner.
 5. Key Tasks and Milestones
- **Strategic Intent**
 1. **Connection to Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act** - All projects must provide a public purpose as framed by the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act. How well do projects identify, conserve, restore, and or interpret natural, recreational, historical, and or cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; identify and utilize the collective resources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay; link the Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other connections; and/or develop and establish Chesapeake Bay Watertrails comprising water routes and connections to Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and other land resources within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

2. **Connection to Chesapeake Economic Impact**—How well does the application link the project deliverables to economic impact? What is the project's economic development goals and objectives and how will the applicant attain those goals and objectives? Is the visitor experience that will be provided by the project clear? Do proposals facilitate an integrated approach to interpreting the themes (see Appendix B) and stories of the Chesapeake Bay watershed? Does the project help visitors explore, enjoy and better connect with these places and their diverse themes in the context of the Bay and its watershed?
 3. **Investments in Community Collaborations**—How well does the proposed project collaborate with partners, especially other Chesapeake Gateways Places and Experiences, across the community to address tourism and economic impact? Is this the first time the community has done such a project or partnered with the noted partners? Is the commitment and support of the partner(s) mentioned in the project narrative (letters of support are not required)?
- **Organization/Applicant Overview**
 1. **Organization mission alignment**—How does the project fit into the proposing organization's mission and does the organization have the capacity to fulfill the project?
 2. **Project Team's skills and experience, including staff, volunteers, partners and consultants**—Name, title, and responsibilities. Optional resumes may be submitted. Resumes do not count toward the 8-page limit.
 - **Proposed Partners.** Submitted projects are meant to reflect community needs and support through a collaboration of different partners, especially Chesapeake Gateways Places or Experiences.
 - **Partner Letters of Support. (Not Required.)**
Letters of support from proposed partners are not required. However, your project narrative should confirm that you have received concurrence from your proposed partner(s) that they are aware of their role and are supportive of the application.
 - **Optional Resumes (Do not count towards 8-page limit.)**
Proposals may include resumes of key project contacts (no more than 3 pages per resume). Resumes must be submitted with the Grants.gov application to be considered.

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).

Construction Costs: Other than structural improvements, construction projects are not supported through this NOFO.

Permitting and/or Compliance Costs: Projects that will result in ground disturbance shall include appropriate cost estimates in the budget for all necessary permitting and NEPA/Section 106 compliance assessments, unless covered through other fund sources.

Data and Evaluation Costs: Applicant budgets may include costs related to data and evaluation as relevant per 2 CFR §200.455.

The project budget shall include a table and narrative with detailed information on all cost categories and must clearly identify all project costs. Unit costs shall be provided for all budget items including the cost of work provided by contractors or sub-recipients. Applicants shall include a narrative description of the items included in the project budget. See Appendix C for sample budget template and Appendix D for sample cost categories.

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.

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement: U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations expending \$1,000,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System, in accordance with 2 CFR 200 subpart F. U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website.

Recipients who pass Federal funds to subrecipients and contractors must ensure that the entities understand and comply with the applicable award statutes, regulations, and agency requirements. Applicants should describe in their application their administrative controls and plans for subrecipient and contractor oversight, compliance, and evaluation.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

Applicants are held responsible for their proposals being submitted to the National Park Service through Grants.gov. Applications must be received by Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 11:59PM Eastern. Applicants are encouraged to submit the application well before the deadline.

Please Note: Per 2 CFR 1402.204 (f) Bureaus and offices must consider the timeliness of the application submission. Applications that are submitted beyond the announced deadline date must be removed from the review process.

Application preparation time may take several weeks, so please start the application process as soon as possible. If it is determined that a proposal was not considered due to lateness, the applicant will be notified during the selection process.

Submission Dates and Times

Closing Date for Applications: 11/04/2026

Closing Date Explanation:

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

Submission Instructions

Applications must be submitted to the National Park Service through Grants.gov by the deadline. Applications cannot be submitted via email or US Mail.

In the event the applicant experiences technical difficulties with submitting their application, please contact: Monica Marcus, FinancialAssistance_Chesapeake@nps.gov.

Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

- *Create a Workspace*: Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- *Complete a Workspace*: Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
- *Submit a Workspace*: An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab
- *Track a Workspace Submission*: After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant's AOR via email as proof of submission. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

Application System Technical Support: For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support 1-800-518-4726 or by email at Support@grants.gov

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.

Eligibility Review Criteria

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

NPS will evaluate and consider only those applications that separately address each of the merit review criteria in the Project Narrative application requirement. Each applicant is required to provide a detailed project narrative of the following criteria elements. It is highly recommended that the project narrative has sections labeled by criterion.

Criterion 1	
Connection to Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act (5 Strong Connection – 0 No Connection)	Weight 22%
Chesapeake Gateways financial support is made under authority by the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998. The language of the Act specifically states that projects must: identify, conserve, restore, and or interpret natural, recreational, historical, and or cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; identify and utilize the collective resources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay; link the Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other connections as determined by the Secretary; and/or develop and establish Chesapeake Bay Watertrails comprising water routes and connections to Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and other land resources within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Reviewers will evaluate how successfully projects connect to the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act and one or more of the interpretive themes (see Appendix B). How well do projects identify, conserve, restore, and interpret natural, recreational, historical, and cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed? And/or how well do projects identify and utilize the collective resources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay? And/or how well do projects link the Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other connections? And/or how well do projects develop and establish Chesapeake Bay Watertrails comprising water routes and connections to Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and other land resources within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	

Criterion 2	
Connection to Economic Impact (5 Strong Connection – 0 No Connection)	Weight 34%
Chesapeake Gateways supports strategies for linking natural, historical, recreational, and cultural-based activities and experiences in the watershed with economic initiatives for local economic development, especially tied with sectors closely linked with Chesapeake heritage, such as heritage tourism, agriculture, and maritime activities. Reviewers will evaluate how successfully projects connect local activities and experiences to economic development. Did the application link the project deliverables to economic impact? What is the project's economic development goals and objectives and how will the applicant attain those goals and objectives? Is the visitor experience that will be provided by the project clear? Do proposals facilitate an integrated approach to interpreting the themes and stories of the Chesapeake Bay watershed? Does the project help visitors explore, enjoy and better connect with these places and their diverse themes in the context of the Bay and its watershed?	

Criterion 3	
Investments in Community Collaborations (5 More Collaborative to 0 Not Collaborative)	Weight 22%
Submitted projects are meant to reflect community needs and support through a collaboration of different partners, especially Chesapeake Gateways Places or Experiences. Community collaborations will be essential to reflect community needs, including in the project planning and implementation. Community collaborations take many forms. Reviewers will evaluate how well the proposed project collaborates with partners, especially Chesapeake Gateways Places and Experiences, across the community to address tourism and economic impact. Is this the first time the community has collaborated on such a project or partnered with the noted partners? Is the commitment and support of the partner(s) mentioned in the project narrative (letters of support are not required)?	

Criterion 4	
Clarity of Project's Operational Plan and Team Capacity (5 Strong Plan to 0 No Plan)	Weight 22%
Chesapeake Gateways projects need to have well defined objectives, activities, costs, deliverables, and expected outcomes. A well-crafted budget and project narrative of your scope of work must clearly convey to reviewers your intent and your plan for accomplishing your objectives. Success of each project also depends on the capacity of each proposing organization and the team of volunteers, staff, partners and/or consultants assembled to plan and implement the project. Uncertainty about your fiscal and operational approach will undermine your proposal.	

Reviewers will evaluate how effectively the budget and project narrative convey the intent of the project. Reviewers will also consider lower administrative/indirect costs as a competitive factor under this criterion. They will also evaluate whether each proposing organization has envisioned and assembled a team with the necessary skills to accomplish the project. Does the project team have the relevant subject matter expertise and experience? How well does the applicant demonstrate the ability to meet administrative and technical grant requirements?

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.

NPS personnel, and in some cases independent reviewers, will review all proposals. All proposals for funding will be considered using the criteria outlined above. A summary of the review panel comments may be provided to the applicant if requested.

a. Initial Review

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 EO on *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* as well as the EO and SO 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 non-responsive and eliminated from further review.

b. Comprehensive Merit Review

All applications that satisfactorily pass the initial review will be eligible for the Comprehensive Merit Review. Each criteria element will be scored on a 0-5 point scale:

5	Superior	(100 % of weighted average)
4	Good	(80 % of weighted average)
3	Satisfactory	(60 % of weighted average)

2	Marginal	(40 % of weighted average)
1	Poor	(20 % of weighted average)
0	Not Acceptable	(No score)

The following numerical rating values may be assigned: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, and 0.

The scoring of each criterion must be based on the strengths and weaknesses of the application narrative. To assist in assigning an appropriate score, the following will be used as a guideline:

Rating	Descriptive Statement
5	Superior: Applicant fully addresses all aspects of the criterion, convincingly demonstrates that it will meet the Government's performance requirements and demonstrates no weaknesses.
4	Good: Applicant fully addresses all aspects of the criterion, convincingly demonstrates a likelihood of meeting the Government's requirements, and demonstrates only a few minor weaknesses.
3	Satisfactory: Applicant addresses all aspects of the criterion and demonstrates the ability to meet the Government's performance requirements. The Application contains weaknesses and/or a number of minor weaknesses.
2	Marginal: Applicant addresses all aspects of the criterion and demonstrates the ability to meet the Government's performance requirements. The Application contains significant weaknesses and/or a significant number of minor weaknesses.
1	Poor: Applicant addresses some aspects of the criterion and demonstrates some doubt in the likelihood of successfully meeting the Government's requirements. Significant weaknesses are demonstrated and clearly outweigh any strength presented.
0	Not Acceptable: Applicant does not address all aspects of the criterion and the information presented indicates a strong likelihood of failure to meet the Government's requirements.

c. Selection

Merit review recommendations will be forwarded to NPS Chesapeake Gateways Superintendent for review and consideration. The NPS Chesapeake Gateways Superintendent may also consider geographic distribution within the Chesapeake watershed, types of awardees, and thematic distribution of the applications in determining the final recommendations for funding. The final recommendations will be forwarded to the Selection Official for final selection. The Selection Official may consider the merit review recommendation, additional Superintendent feedback, and the amount of funds available to select applications for funding.

d. Discussions and Award

The Government may enter into discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to: (1) only a portion of the application is selected for award; (2) the Government needs additional information to determine that the applicant is

capable of complying with the requirements of the Department of Interior (DOI) Financial Assistance Regulations, and/or (3) additional specific terms and conditions are required. Failure to satisfactorily resolve the issues identified by the Government may preclude award to the applicant.

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: May 1, 2027

Anticipated Project End Date: April 30, 2029

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration and National Policy Requirements

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

NPS will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

As authorized by 2 CFR § 200.340(a)(4), awards made under this announcement may be terminated in part or its entirety by the Federal agency if an award is determined to no longer effectuate the program goals or agency priorities.

The Recipient must ensure effective oversight of all activities carried out under the Federal award, including any subawards issued to subrecipients. Subrecipient performance will be

evaluated through routine monitoring to verify compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward, as well as to assess progress toward achieving project goals and objectives. This oversight includes review of financial and performance reports, verification that the subrecipient maintains adequate internal controls to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, reliability of reporting, and compliance with applicable requirements, and confirmation that funds, property, and other assets are safeguarded and used only for authorized purposes. Subrecipients are responsible for providing all information necessary to assess performance, including timely submission of required reports and notification of any significant developments to the Recipient. The Recipient should incorporate subrecipient performance and metrics in reports to the NPS

Geospatial Data

If you receive financial assistance from the DOI, recipient must follow these rules for geospatial data:

Follow Federal Standards: All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at [43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811](#)).

Include Metadata: Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.

Check for Existing Data: Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

Data Availability

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.315](#):

(a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

(b) The Federal Government has the right to:

(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and

(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

Intellectual Property

As used herein, “Intellectual Property” means with respect to a party, all trademarks, service marks and corporate and brand identification and indicia, including without limitation word marks, logos and other picture marks, video and audio recordings, phrases, composite marks, institutional images, look and feel, images of such party’s employees, taglines, and web content, in each case, to the extent owned by such party, whether or not such property is trademarked or registered.

1. Neither party to this Agreement shall use any Intellectual Property (as herein described) of the other party for any purpose (including, without limitation, for collateral marketing, outreach, advertising, or as trade names or internet domain names) without the prior written consent of such other party, which consent may be withheld in such other party’s sole discretion. All uses by one party of the other party’s Intellectual Property shall be in accordance with any requirements and/or quality control standards (including, without limitation copyright and trademark notices) on which the consenting party may condition such consent or may promulgate from time to time by notice to the other party. A party retains all rights with respect to its Intellectual Property that are not specifically granted to the other party. Each party may, in its sole discretion, withdraw its consent to any use of its Intellectual Property by the other party on five (5) business days’ notice to such other party. Each party retains the right to concurrently use, and license others to use, its Intellectual Property anywhere in connection with any purpose.
2. Each party agrees that it shall not acquire and shall not claim rights in or title to any Intellectual Property of the other party.
3. Upon the termination of this Agreement all Intellectual Property of the Partner related to or developed under this Agreement shall, to the extent such Intellectual Property are owned by the Partner and are transferable, become the property of NPS.

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 over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.

Report Formats

- Federal Financial Reports:** Financial reports are submitted through Grant Solutions, the grant management tool used by all the grantees. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a final financial report due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit interim financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.
- Program Performance Reports:** Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. Items may include:
 - Photos/Videos
 - Testimonials from participants
 - Social media posts
 - Press releases
 - Project presentations

Final performance reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit interim performance reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

- Recipients shall acknowledge support of the project in any print or digital materials. NPS Chesapeake Gateways will provide specific guidance on acknowledgement branding and messaging depending on the project deliverables.

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify NPS in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must

include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify NPS in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

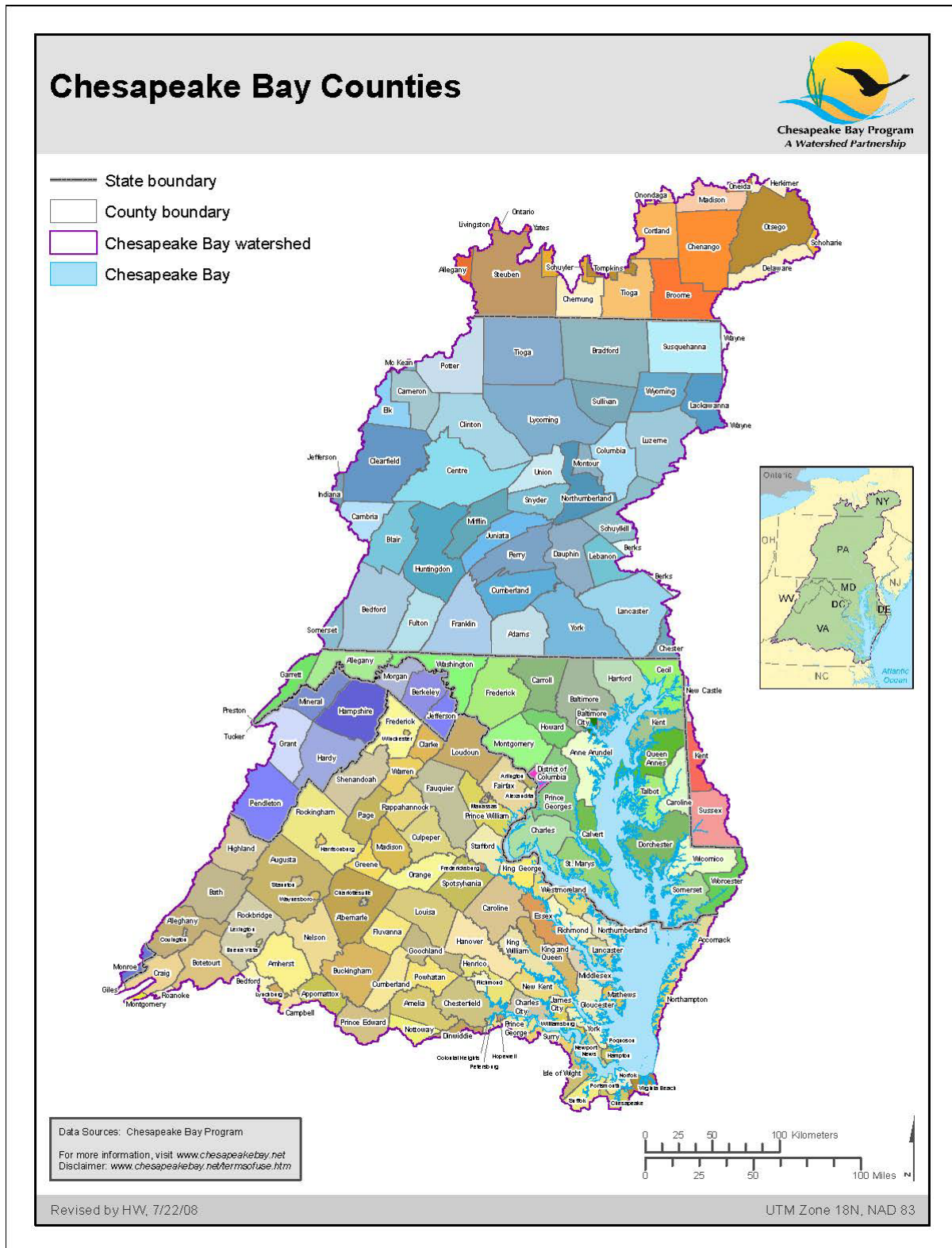
Other Information

Payments

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by NPS. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). NPS will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

Appendix A. Counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

[Full map can be found here.](#)



Appendix B. Chesapeake Gateways Interpretive Themes

This appendix includes an overview of the NPS Chesapeake Gateways interpretive themes as presented in the [Chesapeake Gateways Network Framework](#) document:

Introduction

Chesapeake Gateways uses a thematic structure for organizing Chesapeake stories. The structure was informed by regional workshops and developed through an assorted group of interpreters, planners, educators, and researchers, and was originally published in 2000 and renewed in 2021.

The thematic structure, updated slightly, does not prescribe specific themes for particular sites. Rather, it fosters our collective ability to create cohesive interpretation by placing specific stories in broader Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide context.

Interpretive Themes & Topics

The Living, Natural Chesapeake: A complex interaction of water, land, climate, geological formations, and topographical features creates a unique ecosystem that supports the Chesapeake's remarkable biological diversity and abundance.

- Geology and Formation of the Bay
- Biological Diversity
- Bay Geography and Topography
- Native Plant Communities
- Area Mineral Deposits
- Finfish and Shellfish
- The Bay's Waters
- Wildlife and Waterfowl
- Estuarine Ecology
- Migratory Patterns in the Bay and the Atlantic
- Tidal Wetlands
- Natural Disasters
- Natural Productivity and Abundance of the Bay

Peoples of the Chesapeake: From time immemorial, the natural environment of the Chesapeake and the people it attracted gave shape to distinctive cultural traditions.

- Peoples of the Bay: 13,000 Years
- Religious Groups, Activities, and Influences on Culture and Society
- Changing Societies and Cultures Throughout History
- Occupations of Bay Inhabitants
- Sources of Conflict and Cooperation
- Civic Issues, Events, and Developments in the Region
- Values and Social and Multi-cultural Endeavors of the Peoples of the Chesapeake

Settlement of the Chesapeake: The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries have attracted settlement by humans throughout time, resulting in patterns that shape the region's landscape and reflect the nation's history.

- Impact of Geography and Topography on Settlement
- Settlement Patterns in the Chesapeake Region
- Indigenous Communities
- European Exploration and Settlement
- Africans and African Americans
- Later Immigration to the Bay
- The Built Environment of the Bay
- Growth: Communities, Colonies, Towns, Cities

An Economic Resource: Commerce, Productivity, & Transportation: The rich, natural abundance of the Chesapeake has been a powerful incentive for commercial development, influencing the region's economy, transportation, and productivity.

- Marine Resources: Their Harvesting and Harvesters
- Shipbuilding
- Land and Mineral Resources: Their Harvesting and Harvesters
- The Evolution of Transportation Throughout the Region and to and from the Nation
- Agriculture in the Chesapeake
- Recreation and Tourism in the Bay
- Trade Relationships and the Chesapeake
- Area Manufacturing and Industrialization
- The Bay and Its Tributaries as Highways
- The Chesapeake Economy in the 21st Century

Military and Naval Presence on the Chesapeake: Because of its vast waters and strategic location, the Chesapeake Bay has long played a critical role in the military and naval history of the United States.

- Conflicts between Native Americans & Colonists
- The Battles and Impact of the Revolutionary War
- Naval Ports and Military Installations
- The Chesapeake in The War of 1812
- Naval Shipbuilding, Design, and Weaponry
- United States Naval Academy
- The Civil War in a Divided Region
- The Bay's Role in Developing Modern Weaponry
- Bay Installations in Twentieth Century Wars

The Chesapeake as a Source of Recreation and Renewal: Abundant opportunities for a broad range of leisure-time activities, involving sport, education, culture, and stewardship, spring from the vast resources and beautiful landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

- Water Sports in the Bay
- Birding and Wildlife Viewing
- Fishing
- Emergence of Bay Heritage Tourism and Ecotourism
- Exploring the Bay's Terrain: Hiking, Camping, Hunting, Sightseeing
- The Bay in Art: Photography, Painting, Literature, and Poetry
- Decoy Carving
- Regional Music and Folklore

Environmental Stewardship and Viability: Since the 1980s, Americans have gathered to conserve and restore the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The critical economic and cultural ties between these resources and the public have driven these efforts. Traditional ecological knowledge, community-driven policies, and stewardship activities offer hope for the Chesapeake's viability.

- Changing Perspectives on the Chesapeake
- Conservation and Sound Land Use
- Regional Economic Development
- Wildlife, Fish, and Plant Protection and Restoration
- Individual Responsibility for the Bay
- Vital Habitat Protection and Restoration
- Community Engagement with Stewardship
- Water Quality Restoration and Protection

Appendix C. Sample Detailed Budget Template

This is only a sample. You are not required to use this form.

Cells in yellow are filled in with expense information. Calculations are done in the green cells.

Personnel		Unit of Time	Qty	Total Project Budget	Notes
	Position Description	(hour, day, week, month, % of salary, etc)	(of hours, days, weeks, months, % of salary, etc.		
	Position Description #1			\$	
	Position Description #2			\$	
	Position Description #3			\$	
	Position Description #4			\$	
	Position Description #5			\$	
	Position Description #6			\$	
	Position Description #7			\$	
			Subtotal Salaries	\$	A
Fringe Benefits		% of Compensation			
	Position Description #1			\$	
	Position Description #2			\$	
	Position Description #3			\$	
	Position Description #4			\$	
	Position Description #5			\$	
	Position Description #6			\$	
	Position Description #7			\$	
			Subtotal Benefits	\$	B
			Subtotal Personnel	\$	C
		Qty	Cost Per		
Equipment (over \$5k & useful life of more than 1 yr)					
	Equipment 1 Description			\$	
	Equipment 2 Description			\$	
	Equipment 3 Description			\$	
			Subtotal Equipment	\$	D
Supplies		Qty	Cost Per		
	Supply 1 Description			\$	
	Supply 2 Description			\$	
	Supply 3 Description			\$	
	Supply 4 Description			\$	
			Subtotal Supplies	\$	E
Travel		Qty	Cost Per		
	Airfare			\$	trips
	Lodging			\$	days
	Meals			\$	days
	Ground Transportation			\$	days or mileage
			Subtotal Travel	\$	F

Other		Qty	Cost Per		
	Other 1 Description			\$	
	Other 2 Description			\$	
	Other 3 Description			\$	
	Other 4 Description			\$	
	Other 5 Description			\$	
	Other 6 Description			\$	
	Other 7 Description			\$	
	Other 8 Description			\$	
	Other 9 Description			\$	
	Other 10 Description			\$	
			Subtotal Other	\$	G
Contractual		Qty	Cost Per		
	Subcontract/Subaward 1 Description			\$	
	Subcontract/Subaward 2 Description			\$	
	Subcontract/Subaward 3 Description			\$	
			Subtotal Contractual	\$	H
Total Direct Costs				\$	C+D+E+F+G+H
Indirect Costs				\$	15% of direct cost, unless covered by a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA)
Total Costs				\$	Direct + Indirect

Appendix D. Notes on SF424A Budget Cost Categories

The total of the details you provide in your budget for each cost category must match the total amounts provided on the SF-424A, Section B, lines 6.a. – 6.j.

Personnel: Provide the position description, unit of time, quantity, cost per unit of time and resultant dollar amount for each of the personnel included in the dollar amount in accordance with Section B Line 6.a. of the SF-424A.

Fringe Benefits: For each position description included above provide the fringe benefits dollar amount in accordance with Section B Line 6.b. of the SF-424A.

Travel: Provide the unit of measure, quantity, cost per unit and resultant dollar amount for each of the following travel details in accordance with Section B Line 6.c. of the SF-424A: Airfare, Lodging, Per Diem, Ground Transportation, Housing Stipend and Transportation Stipend.

Equipment (defined in the CFR as over \$5k & useful life of more than 1 year): Provide the equipment description, quantity, cost per unit and resultant dollar amount for each category of equipment in accordance with Section B Line 6.d. of the SF-424A.

Supplies: Provide the supply description, quantity, cost per unit and resultant dollar amount for each category of supplies in accordance with Section B Line 6.e. of the SF-424A.

Contractual: Provide the subcontract/sub-award description, unit of time, quantity, cost per unit of time and resultant dollar amount for each subcontract/sub-award in accordance with Section B Line 6.f. of the SF-424A.

Construction: Other than structural improvements, construction projects are not supported through this NOFO. Only list expenses related to structural improvements.

Other: Provide the description, quantity, cost per unit and resultant dollar amount for each item in accordance with Section B Line 6.h. of the SF-424A.

Indirect Costs: Provide the indirect cost rate percentage, type (negotiated or de minimis), associated base (modified total direct costs, total direct costs, personnel and benefits, etc.) and resultant indirect cost amount in Section B Line 6.j. of the SF-424A. The maximum indirect rate allowed is 15%, unless documentation for a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) is provided.

Non-Federal Share of Budget (Not required through this NOFO. Only applicable if cost share is included as part of the project budget.): Provide the details of the non-Federal share of the budget including description, source, quantity, cost per unit and resultant dollar amount for each item in accordance with Section A of the SF-424a.