# NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

**This announcement is not a request for applications.**
This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service's intention to award financial assistance for the following project activities. *Refer to Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination.*

| ABSTRACT | |
|---|---|
| **Grants.gov Opportunity Number** | NPS-20-REG1-0001 |
| **Project Title** | Collaboration to advance the CHBA Watershed Agreement |
| **Recipient** | Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources |
| **Anticipated Federal Funding** | 0.00 |
| **Non-Federal Cost Share** | 0.00 |
| **Total Anticipated Award Amount** | 0.00 |
| **Award Instrument** | ☐ Task Agreement<br>☑ Cooperative Agreement<br>☐ Grant Agreement |
| **Anticipated Period of Performance** | Through February 28, 2025 |
| **Legal Authority** | 54USC 101702(a);PL105-312;16USC 1246(h)(l);54USC 101701(b) |
| **CFDA # and Title** | 15.930 Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network/Chesapeake Bay Gate |
| **Single Source Justification Criteria** | Unique Qualifications |
| **National Park Service Point of Contact** | Mary Raczko, mary_raczko@nps.gov, 617.913.1105 |

## Section 1. Project Summary

### PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This goal of this project is to protect recreational resources and enhance public access to and enjoyment of the Susquehanna River and other Chesapeake Bay watershed-related resources in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and support the Secretarial priority to enhance access to outdoor recreation opportunities. This project will facilitate cooperation and collaboration in connecting people to the natural and cultural heritage of the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay watershed as called for in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The project is key to efforts to conserve important resources and lands, enhance public access, and develop recreational and interpretive resources within the Commonwealth, including the Pennsylvania Park System, Pennsylvania Water Trails Network, the Susquehanna National Heritage Area, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, authorized under the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act, and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and other national trails.

### STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The project: engages recipients, partners, communities, and/or visitors in shared environmental stewardship; Promotes greater public and private participation in historic preservation programs and activities and builds resource stewardship ethics in its participants; Increases public awareness, knowledge and support for historic preservation and stewardship of the nation's cultural and historical heritage; Motivates its youth participants to become involved in the natural, cultural and /or historical resource protection of their communities and beyond; Assists in the creation, promotion, facilitation, and/or improvement of the public's understanding of natural, cultural, historic, recreational and other aspects of areas such as ecological conservation areas, and state and local parks. Chesapeake Bay watershed through 2025 through a collaborative partnership among federal, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and citizens. The agreement tasks the National Park Service with leadership responsibilities in fostering public stewardship, promoting and increasing public access, and conserving lands of highest value for hunting, fishing, and wildlife and maintaining water quality.

## STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

National Park Service Chesapeake Office (NPS Chesapeake) and its partners collaborate with the goals of increasing access, improving recreational opportunities, and interpreting the natural and cultural resources of the Chesapeake Bay's tributary rivers and streams, and scores of parks, refuges, trails and cultural sites within the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Pennsylvania. NPS and PA DCNR under this Master Cooperative Agreement will:
1. Consult at least annually on opportunities for coordination and Agreement implementation.
2. Create opportunities for partnerships and community collaboration.
3. Consider supplementary agreement that may be needed to fulfill the purpose of this Agreement.

Specified projects and initiatives pursuant to this Agreement will be individually authorized by separate NPS task agreements, with each project or activity having a separate statement of work and budget developed cooperatively between the NPS and PA DCNR.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. The recipient shall be responsible for the following items under this agreement:

1. Work with NPS to identify and implement projects that advance the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
2. In collaboration with NPS Chesapeake and Colonial National Historical Park, identify and implement projects that advance the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and other national trails in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
3. Collaborate with NPS on the Pennsylvania Water Trail Partnership.
4. Work closely with NPS to insure all cooperative projects are in compliance with all federal regulations, policies, and procedures and are consistent with all NPS policies, standards, guidelines, and priorities.
5 Maintain regular communications with NPS staff to ensure cooperative work is implemented effectively and that any issues are identified and readily addressed.
6. Assist NPS in establishing new relationships and capitalizing on existing relationships with Chesapeake Bay watershed regional partner organizations and local governments.

B. The NPS Responsibilities:

☐ A task agreement is proposed;

☑ A cooperative agreement is proposed;

therefore substantial involvement by NPS is anticipated during the period of performance of this agreement. In support of this agreement NPS will:

Work with Recipient to identify and implement projects that advance the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; In collaboration among NPS Chesapeake and Colonial National Historical Park, work with Recipient to identify and implement projects that advance the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and other national trails in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Authorize NPS employees to undertake activities to support the effors of the Partnership; Work closely with Recipient to ensure that cooperative projects adhere to the best principles of environmentally sensitive design, low impact development techniques, and universal accessibility in design and implementation; Work closely with Recipient staff to ensure that projects are in compliance with all federal regulations, policies and procedures and are consistent with NPS policies, standards, guidelines, and priorities; Maintain regular communications with Recipient staff to ensure that work is implemented effectively and that any issues are identified and readily addressed.

☐ A grant agreement is proposed, therefore no substantial involvement on the part of the NPS is anticipated for the successful completion of the statement of work. It is anticipated that involvement will be limited to actions related to monitoring project performance and technical assistance at the request of the recipient.

## Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination

☐ The National Park Service intends to award a task agreement under a previously competed or single source justified award.

☑ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified cooperative agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*

☐ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified grant agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*

## Section 3. Single Source Justification

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**
**SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

National Park Service Policy FAP&P 1443-2015-06 requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable. The justification must address one of the following criteria.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

(1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives. The unsolicited proposal must demonstrate an innovative capability or concept not currently available to the government, and prepared without Government involvement. ;

(2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity presently being funded, for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;

(3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;

(4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications. Successful past performance, familiarity with existing requirements, capabilities that can be obtained or matched by a competitor, or a positive reputation, are not considered to be unique qualifications.

(5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

**NPS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:**

☐ Task Agreement issued under previously competed or single source master cooperative agreement per Section 2 above. Single Source Justification not applicable.

☐ Unsolicited Proposal ☐ Continuation ☐ Emergency

☐ Legislative Intent ☑ Unique Qualifications

*Explanation of the proposed recipient's qualifications or the criteria of the proposed project which requires use of the single source criteria cited.*

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (PA DCNR) has a geographically focused mission with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that aligns with that of the National Park Service Chesapeake (NPS Chesapeake) within the Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay watershed. PA DCNR has an established track record in providing recreational and recreational learning opportunities on the Susquehanna River and throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and has a record of success in collaborating with NPS Chesapeake on previous public educational, recreational and stewardship projects.

The Chesapeake Bay is an internationally recognized resource of outstanding significance and the United States has entered into a partnership with states, the District of Columbia and others to conserve and restore the Bay through the Chesapeake Bay Program. The National Park Service, as a Chesapeake Bay Program partner, is committed to assisting in enhancing interpretation of, and access to, Bay resources for the purposes of advancing and supporting Bay conservation.

A new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed in 2014 by the Governors of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania,

## Section 4. Department of the Interior Secretary's Priorities

**This award will support the following DOI Secretary priority(ies):**

Other Key Initiatives:

- [ ] Employment of veterans.
- [ ] Supporting DOI Infrastructure needs.
- [ ] Creating jobs in the American economy.
- [x] Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Priority 1: Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- [ ] Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.
- [ ] Examine land use planning process and land use designations that govern public use and access.
- [ ] Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.
- [ ] Review DOI water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity.
- [ ] Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.
- [ ] Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing.
- [ ] Shift the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.

Priority 2: Utilizing our natural resources

- [ ] Ensure American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.
- [ ] Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals.
- [ ] Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire 'healthy forests' lifecycle.
- [ ] Manage competition for grazing resources.

Priority 3: Restoring trust with local communities

- [ ] Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.
- [ ] Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.

Priority 4: Ensuring sovereignty means something

- [ ] Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty.
- [ ] Solidify mutual interests between the U.S. and the freely associated states and territories.

Priority 5: Generating additional revenues to support DOI & National interests

- [ ] Ensure that the public receives the full market value for the natural resources produced on Federal lands.
- [ ] Ensure that fees or costs levied for DOI services are reasonable and targeted to achieve cost recovery.
- [ ] Consider the impact of DOI decisions on economic development and job creation.

Priority 6: Protecting our people and the border

- [ ] Actively support efforts to secure our southern border.
- [ ] Ensure DOI law enforcement staffing addresses public safety risks anticipated on DOI land.
- [ ] Promote a "public service" demeanor within our law enforcement community.

Priority 7: Striking a regulatory balance

- [ ] Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public.
- [ ] Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

Priority 8: Modernizing our infrastructure

- [ ] Support the White House Public/Private Partnership Initiative to modernize U.S. infrastructure.
- [ ] Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs.
- [ ] Prioritize DOI infrastructure needs to highlight:
    1. Construction of infrastructure;
    2. Cyclical maintenance;
    3. Deferred maintenance.

Priority 9: Reorganizing for the next 100 years

☐ Improve alignment and integration of the DOI organizational structure. Redistribute organizational resources (people and funding) to enhance mission achievement and improved public service.

☐ Improve organizational alignment with Executive Branch counterparts with major land management assets or influence.

Priority 10: Achieving our goals and leading our team forward

☐ Senior executives are expected to provide leadership in achieving goals of the President and the Secretary.

☐ The Management Team is expected to:

1. Ensure cost-effective operations and quality service to the public;
2. Facilitate organizational cooperation and conflict resolution;
3. Ensure the workplace environment is conducive to employee productivity and safety;
4. Hold individuals accountable for actions that violate DOI policies and requirements.

The proposed project does not support any of the DOI Secretary priorities, but the project is being funded for the following reasons: