National Park Service

PNA - Northeast Region

2023
P23AS00041

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A. Program Description

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

Assistance Listing:

15.930

Program Background, Objectives, and Goals:

For thirty years, the NPS has been a key partner in the collective efforts to conserve and restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed and to connect all people to the stories, places and experiences that makes the Chesapeake special.
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. In addition to the new grants, the program will continue to offer technical assistance to the network and enter into strategic cooperative agreements that advance Chesapeake Gateways.
From its founding, the NPS Chesapeake Gateways program has also been linked with goals and commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Federal/Multi-state partnership to restore the Chesapeake. Today, the NPS leads on four Chesapeake Bay Program goals related to public

access, land conservation, stewardship/diversity, and education. In addition, NPS Chesapeake Gateways staff and funding assists in co-convening the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership, the watershed-wide, large landscape collaborative of more than fifty federal and state agencies, Tribes, land trusts and other non-profit organizations which fosters collective action to conserve and restore culturally and ecologically important landscapes to benefit people, nature, and economies throughout the watershed. Together the collaborative is striving to protect 30 percent of the watershed by 2030. With more than 18 million people now living in the watershed, it is ever more apparent that regional, local, and individual actions influence every aspect of the Bay, its rivers, climate, the landscape, and our communities. Ecological health, human health, economic vigor, equity, access and quality of life are interdependent. NPS Chesapeake seeks to put people at the center of all our work. In response to this, the new Chesapeake Gateways grants are focused on equity, inclusion, accessibility, and engagement to meet community and partner needs, advance the new Chesapeake Gateways Strategic Plan, and align with *Executive Order 13895*, which states: "By advancing equity across the Federal Government, we can create opportunities for the improvement of communities that have been historically underserved, which benefits everyone."

NPS Chesapeake office is offering this new Chesapeake Gateways competitive grant opportunity to renew and continue to advance these important efforts as framed in our Strategic Plan and under the broad authorities of the *Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998.*

Grant Workshops

The NPS Chesapeake office will be holding trainings on the grant program to assist in understanding the components of the application and submission process.

Please go to the NPS Chesapeake Grants page to access application information, frequently asked questions (FAQ), training schedule, and other resources: https://www.nps.gov/cbpo/getinvolved/grants.htm.

Current available training dates are listed. Future trainings may be added.

The new *NPS Chesapeake Gateways Strategic Plan 2021-2026* was developed with network partners and includes four strategic themes that frame the work of the program for the next five years:

- *Theme 1: Rebuild Core Network Capabilities and Services*
- *Theme 2: Advance a Major Inclusive Interpretive Initiative with an Equity Lens*
- *Theme 3. Promote Resilient Communities & Landscapes Through Tourism, Sustainability, Conservation & Local Economies*
- *Theme 4 Develop Gateway Communities as Strategic Focal Points*

This grant opportunity is focused on funding projects and programs related to Themes 2 and 3. **Please see the PDF version for the full announcment and additional information. Additionally, please visit** https://www.nps.gov/cbpo/getinvolved/grants.htm.

Theme 2: Advance a Major Inclusive Interpretive Initiative with an Equity Lens

CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS bring out more complete narratives of our storied landscape. The Chesapeake Watershed is rich with heritage, from the natural resources to the diverse peoples who have lived here through time— from pre-colonial history to today. Some stories are familiar, some untold or under-appreciated, and some are yet to be uncovered. Together, we will:

1. ENGAGE underrepresented places
2. HELP tell underrepresented and full stories
3. FACILITATE galvanizing conservation and quality-of-life messaging
4. STRENGTHEN the ladder of engagement

Sample Actions and Initiatives

- Develop meaningful relationships and engagement with underrepresented places and communities to listen, learn, and understand how the Chesapeake Gateways network can support community interests and needs, and help tell important stories.
- Research and document sites, landscapes, cultures, and stories important to Black, Latino, Native American, Asian-American, and other underrepresented communities across the Chesapeake watershed.
- Facilitate and support Chesapeake Gateways to assess and more fully understand their diverse communities and audiences and their needs and interests.
- Identify, recruit, and develop Chesapeake Gateways sites and partners that can present underrepresented stories.
- Develop inclusive interpretation, programming, and experiences for underrepresented communities that includes key interpretive themes of the Chesapeake Gateways network. (See Appendix E for a sample of interpretative themes.)
- Link culture and nature through interpretation, education, messaging, and initiatives. Clearly combine cultural traditions and history with contemporary resource challenges, ecological sustainability, and resilience initiatives to convey a stewardship ethic.
- Build ladders of youth engagement—from youth programs to internships to careers—to transform our collective workforce to reflect our communities' demographics.

Theme 3. Promote Resilient Communities & Landscapes Through Tourism, Sustainability, Conservation & Local Economies

CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS recognize the Watershed's heritage is a living history played out over a large landscape. Sustaining livelihoods while conserving resources is a core component of our work. Farming, fishing, heritage tourism, and access to nature are all things that make the Chesapeake special, and we must support them. Together, we will:

1. PROMOTE and MARKET the Chesapeake Watershed experience
2. PROMOTE a stewardship ethic
3. FACILITATE collaboration for landscape and community conservation
4. ADVANCE equitable access to the outdoors

5. GROW landscape, heritage-based, sustainable economies

Sample Actions and Initiatives

- Make public lands and open spaces more welcoming and accessible to diverse communities. Share and advance standards for equitable access to parks, green space, water, etc. Expand access to green spaces in communities where they are needed.
- Develop and encourage new and enhanced opportunities to connect with underrepresented communities through inclusive and welcoming events, festivals, places, and programming.
- Deploy inclusive volunteer programs and campaigns to engage new audiences in Chesapeake stewardship.
- Advance watershed-wide land conservation and public access collaboration through projects and programs that support the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership.
- Link Chesapeake Gateways and nature-based and cultural tourism of Gateways with economic initiatives for local resilience and community sustainability, especially tied with sectors closely linked with Chesapeake heritage, such as crafts, working lands and maritime activities.

PLEASE NOTE: While applicants can be from outside the Chesapeake watershed, only projects that take place in the watershed will be considered. Projects that take place outside the watershed will not be considered.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding
$1,000,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award
$150,000
Minimum Award
$25,000
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.

B3. Anticipated Award Funding and Dates

Anticipated Award Date

August 31, 2023

PLEASE NOTE: While applicants can be from outside the Chesapeake watershed, only projects that take place in the watershed will be considered. Projects that take place outside the watershed will not be considered.

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards

Small Grants: $25K-$50K: approximately 10-12 grants expected
Large Grants: $51K-$150K: approximately 3-4 grants expected

Proposals may include more than one action or activity, but the maximum award for any proposal is $150,000.

PLEASE NOTE: While applicants can be from outside the Chesapeake watershed, only projects that take place in the watershed will be considered. Projects that take place outside the watershed will not be considered.

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

NPS Chesapeake Gateways encourages proposals that include and uplift partnerships. Final selections will also consider geographic distribution, diversity of awardees, and thematic distribution. This grant program is not designed to support annual maintenance and operations. Grants may not be used for acquisition of property or services of direct benefit to the Federal government, including support of the day-to-day operations of a Federal agency. This does not preclude applicants from working with Federal entities in their projects. Applicants developing partnerships with Federal entities should work with Federal points of contact to ensure that proposed projects meet the public purpose criteria for financial assistance and may contact NPS with eligibility questions. **PLEASE NOTE: While applicants can be from outside the Chesapeake watershed, only projects that take place in the watershed will be considered. Projects that take place outside the watershed will not be considered.**

Please visit the program website for additional information: https://www.nps.gov/cbpo/getinvolved/grants.htm.

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

00 – State governments
01 – County governments
02 – City or township governments
04 – Special district governments
05 – Independent school districts
06 – Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
07 – Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
08 – Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
11 – Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
12 – Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
13 – Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
20 – Private institutions of higher education
22 – For profit organization other than small businesses
23 – Small businesses

Additional Information on Eligibility

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

C3. Other

Excluded Parties:

NPSconducts 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.

Foreign Entities or Projects

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

Additional information is available at https://www.nps.gov/cbpo/getinvolved/grants.htm and in the full PDF announcement.

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Project Narrative

- Project Narrative - Proposal Submission Format

The project narrative is an opportunity to describe and provide details on the proposal that specifically address at least one of the strategic themes (see Section A.3) and each of the review criteria (see Section E). 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, and references. (Project team resumes, Forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, SF-LLL, and the statement of indirect charges **are not** counted as part of the 8-page limit). Only information that is pertinent to the proposal should be included in the narrative. Extra information will not be considered.

Narrative components:

- **Project Overview**
    1. Purpose, Goal(s), and Objective(s)
    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. Key Tasks and Milestones

- **Strategic Intent**
    1. **Connection to Chesapeake Gateways Strategic Themes** - How will this project advance one the strategic themes in Section A.3? All projects must support at least one strategic theme.
    2. **Connection to Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Engagement Objectives** - How does the project address community engagement, equity, inclusion, and/or accessibility? Does the project build long-term relationships with underrepresented communities to address community identified needs?
    3. **Innovation in Project Intent** - How innovative is the proposed approach to understanding the chosen theme(s) and intended impact? Innovative research, planning, programming, and projects in equitable public access, conservation, community engagement, education, and recreation are core to the work to advance Chesapeake Gateways.

- **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.

3. **Proposed Partners** - Does the project include existing or new partnerships? Optional letters of support may be submitted. Letters of support do not count toward the 8-page limit.

- **Optional Narrative Components (Do not count towards 8-page limit.):**
    1. **Project Resumes—**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.

    2. **Letters of Support**—Letters of support from key partners or constituents can be included (no more than 2 pages per letter). Letters should be current, signed by an authorized representative, and correspond to the project or applicant. Letters must be submitted with the Grants.gov application to be considered.

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

Applicants must submit the appropriate Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. Individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), must complete the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance-Individual form. All other applicants must complete the standard SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. The required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. The SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance must be complete, signed, and dated. Do not include any proprietary or personally identifiable information. Please note: Enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in the "Federal" funding box on the SF-424 Application form. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the "Other" box and provide details on those Federal source(s) and funding amount(s) in the required Budget Narrative (see the "Budget Narrative" section below).

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form and Budget Narrative. For non-construction programs or projects, applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A, "Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs" form. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in 2 CFR 200.

Any applicant organization that has not completed the financial assistance certifications and representations within their SAM.gov registration must submit the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov.

Detailed Budget Narrative

The project budget shall include detailed information on all cost categories and must clearly identify all estimated project costs. Unit costs shall be provided for all budget items including the cost of work to be provided by contractors or sub-recipients. In addition, applicants shall include a narrative description of the items included in the project budget, including the value of in-kind contributions of goods and services provided to complete the project when cost share is identified to be included (reference section C of this announcement). Cost categories can include, but are not limited to, those costs items included on the SF424A or SF424C.

Project Abstract Summary
Please complete and submit with your application package the Project Abstract Summary form with the following information:

- Funding Opportunity Number;
- Goals and Objectives of your proposed project;
- Summary of Project Activities;
- Performance Goals including milestones and expected outcomes;
- Who will benefit from your project.

This information will be transmitted to USASpending.gov and be viewable by the public.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure
Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), 2 CFR §1402.112, applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

(a) Applicability.

(1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.

(2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR §200.318 apply.

(b) Notification.

(1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR §200.112.

(2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by sub recipients.

(c) Restrictions on lobbying. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR §18 and prelim@title31/subtitle2/chapter13&edition=prelim">31 USC §1352.

(d) *Review procedures*. The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

(e) Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR §200.339, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR §180).

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non- profit organizations expending $750,000 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.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than $100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying. If this application requests more than $100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" form if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than $100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 and 31 USC 1352 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

The SF-LLL is required only when **both** the above criteria are met.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

If the project proposed in this application is funded through another Federal financial assistance award, in part or in whole, the applicant must provide a statement detailing the potential funding overlap in regards to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted or copy of Federal financial assistance award covering activities covered under this proposal. The statement and the description of overlap or duplication, when applicable, may be provided within the proposal or as a separate attachment to the application. Any overlap or duplication of funding between the proposed project and other active or anticipated projects may impact selection and/or funding amount. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, "There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects"

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration: This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) which replaces the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s).

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicants can register on the SAM.gov website. The "Help" tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov "Register with SAM" page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities will be assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity's IRS information. There is no cost to register with SAM.gov. There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with SAM.gov; please be aware you can register and request help for free. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

01/30/2023

Application Due Date Explanation

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

D5. Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required for applications submissions from a U.S. state or local government prior to submission. Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372.

D6. Funding Restrictions

The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the Interior Business Center by phone 916-930-3803 or using the IBC Email Submission Form. See the IBC Website for more information.

Organizations must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award. Recipients must have prior written approval from the Service to use amounts budgeted for direct costs to satisfy cost-share or match requirements or to cover unallowable indirect costs. Recipients shall not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted with Application.
All organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list in their application, and attach to their application any documentation identified in the applicable statement:

We are:

- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than $35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Attached is a copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification.
- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than $35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We have prepared and will retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation.
- A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, do not use this statement] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. [Insert either: "Attached is a copy of our most recently approved but expired rate agreement. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made." *or* "Attached is a copy of our current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement."]
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date.
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is lower than 10%. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate; must be lower than 10%]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of [insert rate; must be lower than 10%] against

[insert a clear description of the direct cost base against which your rate is charged (e.g., salaries; salaries and fringe benefits; or modified total direct costs). However, please note that your organization cannot charge indirect costs in excess of the indirect costs that would be recovered if applied against modified total direct costs as defined in §2 CFR 200.68]. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period.

- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is 10% or higher. Our indirect cost rate is [insert your organization's indirect rate; must be 10% or higher]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 10% to be charged against modified total direct project costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.68. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a negotiated rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.
- A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the "Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network", which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of 17.5%. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement per 2 CFR §1402.414. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must charge indirect costs against the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR §200.68 "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)". We understand that we must request prior approval from the Service to use the 2 CFR 200 MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand that Service approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR §200.405, we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Criterion 1 **Maximum Points:** 0

Connection to Chesapeake Gateways Strategic Themes	Weight 25%
(10 Strong Connection – 00 No Connection)	Specific Details CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS is about treasured resources and important stories, and about the people of the Chesapeake watershed, in all their splendid diversity. The CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS Strategic Plan is structured into four strategic themes, representing a collective aspiration for near- and long-term impact across the watershed. The reviewers will evaluate how successfully projects connect to one or more of the two target strategic themes.

Criterion 2 **Maximum Points:** 0

Connection to Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, & Engagement Objectives	Weight 25%
(10 Strong Connection to 00 No Connection)	CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS is a network of people, places, programs, and stories providing opportunities to enjoy, learn about, and help conserve the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Included in the network are assorted natural, cultural, historical, and recreational sites, trails, museums, parks, refuges, and interpretive and orientation facilities. The NPS Chesapeake strategic plan stems from a recognition that the benefits of the watershed have not been equally shared by all people or all communities. The reviewers will evaluate how well the proposal addresses equity, inclusion, accessibility, and engagement objectives. Does the project build long-term relationships with underrepresented communities to address community identified needs? How is the intended audience engaged in the project?

Criterion 3 **Maximum Points:** 0

Innovation in Project Intent	Weight 20%
(10 More Innovative to 00 Not Innovative)	The vision for CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS is a network that welcomes people to the Chesapeake watershed's outstanding benefits and provides inclusive experiences that inspire a robust stewardship ethic. Innovative research, planning, programming, and projects in equitable public access, conservation, community engagement, education, and recreation are

	critical parts of the work to restore and protect the nation's largest and most productive estuary. Innovations will be essential to expand storytelling to be inclusive of untold stories or under told stories. Innovation in community engagement will be essential to include all communities in project planning and implementation. The reviewers will evaluate how innovative the proposed project is at addressing the chosen theme(s) and intended impact.

Criterion 4 **Maximum Points:** 0

Clarity of Project's Operational Plan	Weight 15%
(10 Strong Plan to 00 No Plan)	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. Uncertainty about your fiscal and operational approach will undermine your proposal. The reviewers will evaluate how effectively the budget and project narrative convey the intent of the project.

Criterion 5 **Maximum Points:** 0

Team's Capacity to Implement Project	Weight 15%
(10 Strong Capacity to 00 No Capacity)	CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS depends on a network of people and partners to conserve and steward the special places in the watershed important to communities, visitors, and the nation, for this and future generations. Success of each project will depend on the capacity of each proposing organization and the team of volunteers, staff, partners and/or consultants assembled to plan and implement the project. The reviewers will 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?

E2. Review and Selection Process

Prior to award, the program will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, the program may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the Bureau may choose not to fund the selected project.

The program may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the Bureau is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Prior to award, the program will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in 2 CFR 200.205. Programs document applicant risk evaluations using the Bureau's "Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment" form. Prior to approving awards for Federal funding in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), the Bureau is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The Bureau will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Bureau uses the results of the risk evaluation to establish monitoring plans, recipient reporting frequency requirements, and to determine if one or more of the specific award conditions in 2 CFR 200.207 should be applied the 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; and (4) the proposed project is responsive to the program objectives of the NOFO (program determination). 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 0-10 point scale:

10	Superior	(100 % of weighted average)
8	Good	(80 % of weighted average)

6	Satisfactory	(60 % of weighted average)
4	Marginal	(40 % of weighted average)
2	Poor	(20 % of weighted average)
0	Not Acceptable	(No score)

The following numerical rating values may be assigned: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 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
10	Superior: Applicant fully addresses all aspects of the criterion, convincingly demonstrates that it will meet the Government's performance requirements, and demonstrates no weaknesses.
8	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.
6	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.
4	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.
2	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 Superintendent for review and consideration. The NPS Superintendent may also consider geographic distribution within the Chesapeake watershed, diversity of awardees, thematic distribution, and the amount of funds available to make final recommendations of the applications to be forwarded for funding. The final recommendations will be forwarded to the NPS Financial Assistance Selection Official for final selection.

PLEASE NOTE: While applicants can be from outside the Chesapeake watershed, only projects that take place in the watershed will be considered. Projects that take place outside the watershed will not be considered.

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 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.

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

See the National Park Service's Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Estimated date of Federal Award: Summer of 2023.

Estimated date notifying successful and unsuccessful applicants: Spring of 2023.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

Upon being selected for the award, successful applicants will receive a notification of the selection of their application for funding. NPS will notify the applicant selected for award by approximately May 31, 2023. A notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance on an agreement. This notice will detail the next steps in the awarding process. Once all clearances and reviews have been conducted, a cooperative agreement or grant will be sent for signature.

Work cannot begin before the non-Federal entity receives a fully executed copy of the grant/cooperative agreement which contains the signature of the Financial Assistance Awarding Officer. Any pre-award costs incurred prior to the receipt of a signed agreement or written notice signed by a Financial Assistance Awarding Officer authorizing pre-award costs, is at the applicant's own risk. A signed grant/cooperative agreement signed by a Financial Assistance Awarding Officer is the only authorizing document to begin performance.

Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the "DOI Standard Terms and Conditions" for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

Data Availability

Per theFinancial 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.

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F3. Reporting

Financial Reports

All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final 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** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

- **Financial Reports:** All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final 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** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

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. Final 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** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

- **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

Recipients are required to submit an **interim** performance reports 6 months after the project start date. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. Final 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** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

Significant Development Reports

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 the Bureau 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 the Service 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.

Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.339 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds $10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Eddie Gonzalez

Address:
National Park Service Chesapeake 1750 Forest Drive, Suite 140 Annapolis, MD 21401

Telephone:
202-868-0175

Email:

Chesapeake_grants@nps.gov

Additional information is available at the program website (https://www.nps.gov/cbpo/getinvolved/grants.htm) and on the full, PDF version of this announcment.

G2. Program Administration Contact

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Patrick Reidy

Address:
National Park Service 1234 Market Street, 20th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19107

Telephone:
215-597-5949
Email:
patrick_reidy@nps.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support

For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact:
Grants.gov Customer Support
Numeric Input Field: 1-800-518-4726
Support@grants.gov

For GrantSolutions technical registration, submission, and other assistance contact:
GrantSolutions Customer Support
1-866-577-0771
Help@grantsolutions.gov

H. 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 the Service program. 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). The Bureau 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.

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Definitions

Following are the definitions of key terms used throughout this announcement:

a. **Chesapeake Gateways** means the diversity of places and partners associated with the Chesapeake Gateways program and network. Places and partners include:
    a. **Chesapeake Gateway Communities** provide a host of inclusive opportunities for people to experience multi-faceted Chesapeake resources and stories and they encourage further exploration.

b. **Gateway Sites** are primary individual destinations to which people are directed to access, experience, enjoy, learn about, and contribute to a particular natural, cultural, historical, or recreational resource illustrative of the Chesapeake watershed.
c. **Watertrails** provide water-based recreational experiences for boaters and, in the case of longer trails, may serve as physical and programmatic connections between multiple Gateway communities and sites.
d. **Land-based Connecting Routes and Trails** link multiple communities and sites providing thematic or geographic approaches to exploring the network. Land trails serve as walking, hiking and biking routes.
e. **Heritage Areas and Landscapes** include dozens of the types of places described above and, in effect, are regional networks that also participate in the Chesapeake Gateways Network.
f. **Public Water Access Sites** focus on opportunities for personal experiences with minimal interpretive information on site.
g. **Programmatic Partners** support or carry out individual initiatives, programs, or projects that advance network goals benefitting multiple network places or the network as a whole.
h. **Network-wide Partners** provide foundational support for coordinating and sustaining the entire network, in direct collaboration with NPS Chesapeake. These partners provide governmental, private and non-profit sector expertise, funding and flexibility to support the work of the NPS to maintain and enhance effectiveness of the network.

b. **Underserved Communities** refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, who have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. In the context of the Federal workforce, this term includes individuals who belong to communities of color, such as Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, Native American, Alaska Native and Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and North African persons. It also includes individuals who belong to communities that face discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity (including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, gender non-conforming, and non-binary (LGBTQ+) persons); persons who face discrimination based on pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions; parents; and caregivers. It also includes individuals who belong to communities that face discrimination based on their religion or disability; first-generation professionals or first-generation college students; individuals with limited English proficiency; immigrants; individuals who belong to communities that may face employment barriers based on older age or former incarceration; persons who live in rural areas; veterans and military spouses; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequality. Individuals may belong to more than one underserved community and face intersecting barriers.
c. **Diversity** means the practice of including the many communities, identities, races, ethnicities, backgrounds, abilities, cultures, and beliefs of the American people, including underserved communities.

d. **Equity** means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.
e. **Inclusion** means the recognition, appreciation, and use of the talents and skills of people of all backgrounds.
f. **Accessibility** means the design, construction, development, and maintenance of facilities, information and communication technology, programs, and services so that all people, including people with disabilities, can fully and independently use them. Accessibility includes the provision of accommodations and modifications to ensure equal access to employment and participation in activities for people with disabilities, the reduction or elimination of physical and attitudinal barriers to equitable opportunities, a commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities can independently access every outward-facing and internal activity or electronic space, and the pursuit of best practices such as universal design.

Background Resources

The following resources listed and linked below offer useful background and guidance on making impact in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

1. Chesapeake Gateways Strategic Plan (2021-2026)
2. Refreshing the Chesapeake Gateways Network: An Updated Framework
3. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
4. Chesapeake Bay Program DEIJ Statement
5. Chesapeake Bay Program: Restoration from the Inside Out: A Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Strategy
6. Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Goals
7. Marking Milestones - Progress in Conserving Land in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
8. Executive Order 13985 Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
9. Executive Order 14305: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce
10. Executive Order 14008: Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad - The White House

Sample Chesapeake Gateways Interpretive Themes

This appendix includes an overview of the NPS Chesapeake Gateways interpretive themes as presented in the *NPS Chesapeake Gateways Updated Framework Document:*

Introduction

Chesapeake Gateways uses a thematic structure for organizing Chesapeake stories. The structure is based on current research as well as ongoing interpretive programs.

An interpretive theme is a tool that helps interpreters affect their audience. Its purpose is to provide focus for the audiences' personal connections. An interpretive theme articulates a reason or reasons for caring about and caring for a resource. Using a theme, an interpreter hopes to provoke an audience to know the resource is meaningful and feel that its preservation matters.

As a Network, we employ interpretive themes at multiple scales, communicating from the local level at a particular site, to community-wide programing, to sharing regional and watershed-wide stories.

The thematic structure here 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 watershed-wide context.

Key Interpretive Themes

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 diversity and abundance.

Long before humans came to the Chesapeake region, natural forces were shaping the Bay and its watershed. With a surface area of 2,500 square miles, the Bay is one of the largest estuaries in the world, serving as home for a wide variety of plant and animal life. Today, both natural and human forces continue to impact and change the Chesapeake watershed.

- 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
- The Changing Climate

Peoples of the Chesapeake: From early settlement to today, the natural environment of the Chesapeake and the diverse population it attracted gave shape to distinctive cultural traditions.

People from all over the world settled side-by-side along the Bay, with both cooperation and conflict marking their communities. Racial, religious, ethnic, political and economic divisions have been counterbalanced by united efforts, common concerns and shared values. Throughout the history of its peoples, the water and land of the Bay influenced and transformed the cultures taking root. This heritage has given the region a distinctive style and identifiable sense of place.

- Peoples of the Bay: 13,000 Years of Immigration and Diversity
- Religious Groups, Activities and Influences on Culture and Society
- Changing Societies and Cultures Throughout History
- Racial and Ethnic Heritage
- Occupations of Bay Inhabitants
- Sources of Conflict and Cooperation
- Political 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 land- scape and reflect the nation's history.

First, indigenous peoples, much later Europeans and soon after, Africans established footholds in the Chesapeake region. With each wave of settlement, those arriving dispersed along shorelines creating patterns of settlement dramatically influencing the United States and reflected to this day. Later arrivals fueled the growth of the region's metropolitan centers. Throughout, the Bay has served as magnet and crucible, attracting, defining, shaping and reconfiguring the patterns of settlement.

- 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.

The watershed's resources and geography shaped the economic development of the region. Terrestrial and marine creatures, as well as the land and waterways, led to development of specific industries, harvesting methods, modes of transportation and even boat designs. It is this

resource-based economy and its connections to other parts of the nation and the world that are responsible for producing much of the image of the Chesapeake area. Despite modern transformations, natural resources remain a fundamental component of the Chesapeake economy.

- 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.

As the site of the nation's capital, historic battles and significant military installations, the Bay has long been intricately involved in a complex and dramatic web of national and international affairs. Today the Chesapeake region continues to be home to a sizable military and naval presence.

- Conflicts between Indigenous Peoples & Colonists
- United States Naval Academy
- 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
- 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 exquisite landscapes of the Chesapeake watershed.

The traditional uses of the Chesapeake's waters by area residents—boating, fishing, hunting—have long attracted visitors for recreation and renewal. Especially in recent decades, Chesapeake related recreation has become an economic force in the region. Today, the Chesapeake watershed represents a source of inspiration and personal renewal through its diverse recreational

opportunities and the natural and cultural heritage on which they are based.

- Public Lands and Public Health
- 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

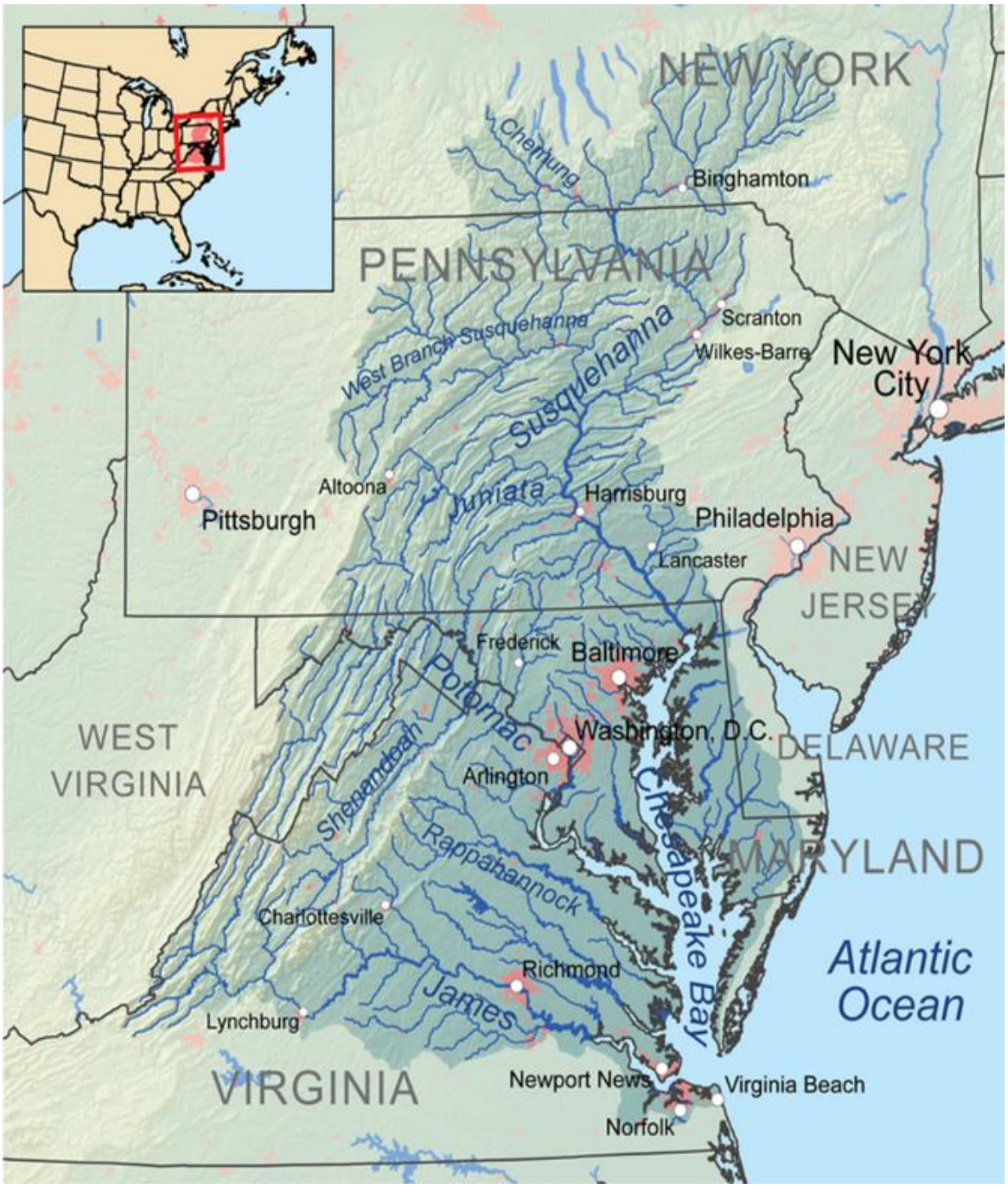
Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability: The Chesapeake and its living resources are suffering from the cumulative effects of human use and exploitation. But new environmental attitudes, policies and behaviors offer hope for the Chesapeake's renewal and sustainability.

Realizing that an ecological crisis exists has impelled residents, visitors, governments, and organizations to reassess the ways in which humans interact with the Chesapeake watershed and use its resources. The changes resulting from this attention are helping to restore the watershed and creating a world-wide model for environmental programs. Restoration and conservation are crucial to sustaining the Bay and its tributary rivers and streams which make such fundamental contributions to our well-being, our heritage, and our spirit.

- Changing Perspectives on the Chesapeake
- Conservation and Sound Land Use
- Changing Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors
- Sustainable Regional Economic Development
- Resiliency and Responding to a Changing Climate
- 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

Chesapeake Watershed Map

PLEASE NOTE: While applicants can be from outside the Chesapeake watershed, only projects that take place in the watershed will be considered. Projects that take place outside the watershed will not be considered.



Map credit: [Kmusser, Wikimedia Commons]