

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

F26AS00004 - NAWCA 2026-1 US Standard Grants

Funding Opportunity Number

F26AS00004

## Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| BASIC INFORMATION.....                                | 1  |
| ELIGIBILITY .....                                     | 2  |
| Cost Sharing Requirement .....                        | 3  |
| GET READY TO APPLY .....                              | 3  |
| Required System Registrations .....                   | 3  |
| PROGRAM OVERVIEW .....                                | 4  |
| Program Goals.....                                    | 4  |
| Program Description .....                             | 4  |
| Legislative Authority .....                           | 4  |
| Type of Award .....                                   | 4  |
| PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION .....                        | 4  |
| Application Content and Format.....                   | 4  |
| Application Documents.....                            | 4  |
| SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES .....           | 7  |
| Address to Request Application Package .....          | 7  |
| Submission Dates and Times .....                      | 7  |
| Submission Instructions .....                         | 7  |
| APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....                   | 8  |
| Eligibility Review .....                              | 8  |
| Merit Review.....                                     | 8  |
| Review and Selection Process.....                     | 8  |
| Risk Review .....                                     | 9  |
| AWARD NOTICES .....                                   | 9  |
| POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION .....      | 9  |
| Administration and National Policy Requirements ..... | 9  |
| Reporting.....  | 10 |

## BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** F26AS00004

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

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

**Expected Number of Awards:** 30

**Award Ceiling:** \$3,000,000

**Award Floor:** \$250,001

**Cost Sharing Required?**

Yes

**Closing Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than Thursday, July 10, 2025, 11:59p.m. Eastern Time.

U.S. states and local governments may be required under [Executive Order 12372](#), [Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#) to submit their application to their State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for review. For more information, see the [Intergovernmental Review SPOC List](#).

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

**Have Questions?**

For NAWCA proposal and project development questions, email [dbhc@fws.gov](mailto:dbhc@fws.gov)

**Executive Summary**

The U.S. Standard Grants Program is a competitive, matching grant program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The program promotes partnerships projects that must involve a) only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit diversity of wetland ecosystems and b) maintaining an abundance of waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) and other populations of wetlands-associated migratory birds consistent with the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Waterbird Conservation Plan for the Americas, and Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan. The program requires a 1:1 non-federal match and research funding is ineligible. This program supports the Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mission of protecting and managing the nation's natural resources by collaborating with partners and stakeholders to conserve land and water and to expand outdoor recreation and access.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Eligible Applicants**

State governments

County governments

City or township governments

Special district governments

Independent school districts

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Private institutions of higher education

Small businesses

### **Additional Information on Eligibility**

For US Standard eligibility criteria, proposal instructions, proposal template, visit:

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

## **Cost Sharing Requirement**

### **Cost Sharing Required?**

Yes

The US Standard program requires a 1:1 non-federal match.

## **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](#).

This program may allow an applicant to apply while their SAM.gov registration is in progress, with prior approval. For more information, refer to the point of contact identified in the Basic Information section above.

### **GRANTSOLUTIONS**

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

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Program Goals

- The US Standard Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The US Standard Program goals are to promote partnerships between public agencies and groups interested in long term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds; maintaining and improving the current distributions of wetlands-associated migratory bird populations; and maintaining an abundance of waterfowl and other populations of wetlands-associated migratory birds consistent with the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. For additional US Standard Program goals, visit: <https://fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard>

### Program Description

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) U.S. Standard grants are competitive, matching grants that support public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the U.S. that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. A 1 to 1 match to grant ratio is a requirement.

For US Standard scoring criteria (page 33 of US Standard Instructions) and US Eligibility criteria, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-us-standard-grants>

To view previously successful awarded NAWCA US Standard Projects, visit NAWCA's external facing database to query for your viewing: <https://www.fws.gov/grantsum/>

### Legislative Authority

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

### Type of Award

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

## PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

### Application Content and Format

#### 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 | Required from all applicants |

| Forms/Assurances/Certifications  | Submission Requirement  |
|--|---|
| <p>Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in <a href="#">Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying</a></p>                   |   |
| SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs  | Required for non-construction projects  |
| SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs  | Required for construction projects  |
| <p>SF-429 (Cover Page &amp; Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property<br/> Note: The SF-429 forms are only available in the <a href="#">Grants.gov Forms Repository</a>. Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.</p>   | 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. |
| <p>Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award purpose,</li> <li>• Activities to be performed,</li> <li>• Expected deliverables or outcomes,</li> <li>• Intended beneficiaries,</li> </ul> <p>Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)</p> | Required from all applicants  |
| <p>DOI Research and Development (R&amp;D) – Current and Pending (Other) Support<br/> Note: This form is available on the <a href="#">DOI website</a>. Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.</p>   | Required for research projects.   |
| <p>DOI Research and Development (R&amp;D) – Biographical Sketch<br/> Note: This form is available on the <a href="#">DOI website</a>. Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.</p>   | Required for research projects.   |

## **Project Narrative**

For US Standard proposal template (project narrative) and instructions, visit:  
<https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-us-standard-grants>

## **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).

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

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

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

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

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

## **Other Required Information**

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

### Address to Request Application Package

For NAWCA US Standard instructions, proposal template, and eligibility criteria, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-us-standard-grants>

For questions, email [dbhc@fws.gov](mailto:dbhc@fws.gov) or call 703-358-2017

### Submission Dates and Times

**Closing Date for Applications:** 07/10/2025

#### Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than Thursday, July 10, 2025, 11:59p.m. Eastern Time.

### Submission Instructions

#### Apply Through GrantSolutions

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

1. **Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) with:
  - Subject: New Organization Request
  - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
  - Entity type
  - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
  - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
  - Address
  - Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone)This information should be the same as entered on the entity's SAM.gov profile.
2. **Assign system user roles.** Follow the [GrantSolutions "Recipient user" registration instructions](#). Submit a separate Recipient User Account Request form for each official to be assigned a system role. At minimum, the Authorizing Official (ADO) and Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD) must be assigned.
3. **Log in.** GrantSolutions requires users to log in through Login.gov. Each user must create a [Login.gov](#) account. For instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
4. **Find and apply to this Funding Opportunity.** After logging in, click on either the "Begin an application" link (first time applicants) or the "Funding Opportunity" link to go to the "Competing Announcements-Application Kits" list screen. Search the list for this Funding Opportunity's title and number. Click on the associated "Apply" link. Follow the prompts from there. Required applications forms are provided with the Funding Opportunity in GrantSolutions unless otherwise indicated on the Required Forms table above.
5. For detailed instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).



6. **Need help?** Find help topics and contact information on the [GrantSolutions Contact Us page](#).

Applications can be submitted electronically to the email address below by the submission date and time.

dbhc@fws.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.

For full NAWCA US Eligibility criteria, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-us-standard-grants>

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

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

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

### Merit Review

For US Standard scoring criteria to evaluate merit, review scoring table on page 33 of the US Standard Instructions: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-us-standard-grants>

### Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

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

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

Reviewers assign points based on information in the proposal especially on technical assessment questions (TAQs). TAQs instructions are located within the US Standard Instructions starting on page 25. In addition, reviewers evaluate the questions and the proposal in relation to the group of proposals under review. Scores are available online approximately ten weeks after the proposal due dates. Applicants are encouraged to review the U.S. Grant Administration Standards document to see how Technical Assessment Question answers will be incorporated into the Assistance Award/Grant Agreement as well as reviewing Section H: Reports and Other Documentation: <https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-us-standard-grants>

## **Risk Review**

Prior to making an award, the program assesses the risk posed by the applicant per [2 CFR 200.206](#). If an award will be made, the program may apply special conditions corresponding to the risk assessed. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), the program reviews eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records per [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)](#). The program also assesses financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential challenges.

## **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:** 05/01/2026

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 05/01/2028

FY2026-1 US Standard awards potentially will be issued May 2026 and period of performance would be determined once award is issued within GrantSolutions. Note: All FY2026 awards will be issued once a final FY2026 budget is approved. Unsuccessful applicants will receive an email from DBHC on the status of their proposal and DBHC will change intake review status and complete business review for unsuccessful submissions.

## **POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Administration and National Policy Requirements**

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

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

## 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) requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation through SAM.gov and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts, and consortiums over \$30,000 to the [FFATA Subaward Reporting System \(FSRS\)](#).

For report requirements, review Section H: Reports and Other Documentation within the US Grant Administration Standards: <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/US-Grant-Administrations-Standards.pdf>

## Other Information