

Maryland Coastal Bays Program
Implementation Grant Application
2024

Cover Page

Project Title: _____
Applicant: _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Budget

Total Cost \$ _____
In-Kind Match \$ _____
Cash Match \$ _____
Amount Requested \$ _____

Schedule:

Starting Date: _____

Duration: _____

Authorized Signature

Date

Instructions for Proposals

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) is accepting grant proposals for the 2024 Implementation Grant Program. These grants are being offered to the Program’s partners to assist in the implementation of actions outlined in the Maryland Coastal Bays Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

Grant requests up to \$25,000 per project will be considered. However, there is a high potential that grants will be available the following year, so studies that are larger in scope can be proposed with the initial year to be considered a pilot or feasibility study. However, at this time additional years of funding are not assured. The deadline for submission is Friday, March 15th, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. Award notification will be announced in mid April 2024. Final invoices must be submitted by Friday, January 21st, 2025 and final reports/deliverables are due on Friday, February 21st, 2025.

Eligible organizations for funding include any nonprofit organization, state or local government agency, interstate agency, college or university. Federal agencies and federal agency personnel are NOT eligible for direct funding under this request

Applicants may submit more than one proposal but each must be submitted separately and must follow the format requirements. Two or more organizations may combine for the purposes of responding to this request for proposals. Project sites must be located within the Maryland Coastal Bays watershed.

It should be noted that funds are provided through a federal funding source. Therefore, each funding recipient must be capable of meeting federal guidelines for expending funds. Please note that federal funds may not be used for T-shirts, hats, or other promotional type clothing. Equipment purchases or sub-contracts must also follow federal guidelines.

Proposals must contain:

1. A Project Proposal Cover Sheet (attached).
2. A description of the proposed project following the outline described below.
3. Any figures or maps as an appendix (optional).

ONLY electronic submissions in Adobe PDF format (.pdf) sent as an attachment to email rjesien@mdcoastalbays.org will be accepted. An online Grant Application and a copy of the CCMP are available on our website (www.mdcoastalbays.org).

It is strongly suggested that Roman Jesien (rjesien@mdcoastalbays.org) at (443) 521-5202 by contacted prior to application submittal to ensure applicability of proposals to funding goals. -

Proposal Format

Each category must be addressed in a single paragraph. The entire project description must not exceed two pages of text. The font used must be at least 10 point in size. Any information that exceeds the two-page limit will not be considered. Figures and graphs may be attached as additional pages, but must be described in the "project description".

I. Abstract

Please summarize your proposed project in one paragraph.

II. Eligible Projects

Projects should address research needs for the Coastal Bays. Research needs in the Coastal Bays primarily revolve around building an understanding of the factors that influence resilience. A summary is presented below.

1. SAV and tidal marsh migration processes and requirements. Upland migration of tidal marshes and SAV is a crucial response to relative sea level rise. Understanding the

processes that control the successful migration of these critical habitats is vital to future restoration or mitigation attempts.

2. Extent of tidal marshes and document changes through the years. Estimates of the past and current extent of tidal marsh is vital to plan for enhancement of critical habitat for state and federally listed species.
3. Efficacy of tidal marsh enhancement techniques. Techniques for salt marsh enhancement through runnels and ditch filling requires research to test their effectiveness in the Coastal Bays environment.
4. Efficacy of dredging for restoration. Dredging for marsh restoration is a concept that needs to be explored to optimize best use of material and diminishing habitats especially in light of relative sea level rise.
5. Techniques to intercept nutrients from agriculture and stormwater conveyance. Interception of nutrient runoff from both agricultural and urban stormwater using innovative techniques like denitrifying 'woodchip' bioreactors, phosphorus binding clays, or biofilm reactors require research to test their efficacy for the Coastal Bays.
6. Increased understanding of sediment dynamics especially as it relates to island and shoreline erosion. The issue of island loss that has led to the collapse of colonial waterbirds requires a better understanding of hydrodynamics and sediment movement in the Coastal Bays.
7. Dynamics that influence the transitioning food web of the Coastal Bays. The eutrophication transition that the Coastal Bays is poised to undergo from a benthic-dominated ecosystem with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) to a pelagic-dominated ecosystem with phytoplankton represents an ecological 'tipping point'. The dynamics that control this transition need to be better elucidated to help avoid an unwanted transition.
8. Emerging Contaminants - Risk assessment of emerging contaminants such as PFAS, pharmaceuticals and plastics pose potential threats to the Coastal Bays.
9. Ground water – A better understanding to the locations and quality of groundwater discharge areas remotely will help to elucidate the changing characteristics of the transitioning from benthic to pelagic dominated system.

III. Project Cost, Matching Funds, and Timeline

Please provide the following information: Total project cost, matching funds provided, matching funds provider, and time required to complete the project. Matching funds must

be from non-federal sources, and meet federal requirements for costs and recruiting requirements. Please note that although matching funds are not required, they will aid in the decision and will given more consideration.

Please describe any seasonal limitations to conducting your project, including possible impacts to endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review any construction or earth-moving projects selected for possible impacts to endangered species.

IV. Other Partners

Describe any additional organizations or funding sources that may be used to support the proposed project

V. Detailed Project Description

Describe in further detail the proposed project as succinctly as possible. The total length of the project description (I-VIII) cannot exceed two pages in length. You may attach any maps or tables as an appendix, but no additional text may be added beyond the two-page limit.

VI. Budget

The respondent shall provide salaries and the estimated percentage of time of involvement (based on the project period) for each member of the proposed project team. Projected travel costs, equipment, communication, supplies, and contractual services should be clearly detailed. If certain activities, phases, or tasks have already been funded by other means, these funding sources and their purposes should be detailed. The Program reserves the right to offer funding for a particular phase or task, rather than funding the entire project.

Note that overhead can not exceed 10% of total project cost.

X. Quality Assurance

Some of the funding that supports this solicitation is provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Therefore, proposals that include environmental measures will be required to comply with the Quality Assurance requirements of the EPA. Applicants should allow sufficient time and resources for this process in their proposed projects. Environmental data are defined as any measurement or information describing the environmental processes, location or condition; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data also include information collected directly from measurements, produced by models, and obtained from other sources, i.e. databases or published literature. Guidance on these requirements can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/quality>. Particular attention should be directed to 40 CFR 30, 31 and 35.

Successful applicants will be required to submit a copy of the Quality Assurance Management Plan for their organization and a Quality Assurance Project Plan for the proposed project. Guidance in preparing these documents can be found on the above referenced website. For further information on the Quality Assurance Program of the MCBP, please contact Bill Weiland at bweiland@mdcoastalays.org.

