

## **Stream & Watershed Enhancement Grant**

### **Grant Guidelines**

#### **Grant Overview**

The mission of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) is to enhance public welfare through comprehensive planning, water supply allocation, and management of the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.

Part of accomplishing this mission includes protecting and restoring fisheries, wetlands and aquatic habitat; protecting water quality and instream uses; and ensuring future availability of flows to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Stream & Watershed Enhancement Grant program offers support to local organizations whose work is in keeping with SRBC's mission. This Grant program offers funding for community-based environmental & water resources projects or events that improve, restore or protect our local watersheds.

The grant application opens September 06, 2023, and closes November 30, 2023.

#### **Project Eligibility**

Eligible projects will successfully propose reasonable activities and outcomes that are focused on efforts that improve, restore or protect one or more watersheds within the Susquehanna River Basin (Basin). Eligible projects may also propose support (operational or financial) for watershed volunteer, membership, or outreach events in the Basin.

#### **Example Projects**

- Watershed education/outreach/support (operational or financial)
- Watershed strategic planning and/or facilitation of planning efforts
- Voluntary/citizen water quality monitoring support
- Instream and streamside debris management & collection
- Water-based recreation opportunities
- Climate change resiliency projects:
  - Riparian buffer restoration or enhancement
  - Stream or wetland restoration or protection
  - Tree plantings on cleared or impacted lands
  - Rain gardens/community gardens to reduce impervious surfaces

#### **Applicant Eligibility**

The following entities are eligible to apply for a grant:

1. Watershed group – if unincorporated, must be organized with officers and bylaws
2. Educational program or school district
3. Non-profit/501c(3) or equivalent
4. Municipal government

## **Grant Awards**

The grant awards are capped at \$5000. Funds may be used for direct project implementation costs in addition to select indirect costs such as contracting services, expansion of partnerships, equipment rentals/purchase, and food purchasing for volunteer outreach events between September 06, 2023 and December 31, 2024.

## **Ineligible Costs**

Ineligible costs include routine regulatory obligations, land development projects, lobbying, litigation, fees for securing other financing or associated with bad debts, interest on borrowed funds, illegal activities or substances, costs associated with personal expenses of board members and/or officers/staff, application preparation fees, and other costs incurred prior to the award of grant funds. Cost incurred prior to September 06, 2023 are ineligible.

## **Grant Criteria for Selection Prioritization**

- A project summary that includes:
  - Project purpose;
  - Goals for the watershed;
  - Projected watershed enhancement; and
  - Project design or effort.
- Collaborative efforts/initiatives with local partners (operational or financial) where appropriate.
- Promotion of community engagement.
- A reasonable and cost-efficient budget.
- Outreach to or projects proposed in:
  - Underserved communities/environmental justice areas.

## **How it Works**

When a grant is awarded, the project sponsor and the Commission enter into a grant agreement that specifies award conditions.