

MARYLAND'S WORKING WATERFRONTS ENHANCEMENT GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Working Waterfronts Enhancement Grant Summary

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Working Waterfronts Program provides financial and technical assistance to local governments to promote and assist with the preservation of existing and historic working waterfronts in Maryland. The Working Waterfronts Program is soliciting proposals from local governments for a unique grant to support revitalization of working waterfront communities and economies throughout Maryland. Local governments are welcome to apply for financial assistance to complete one-year projects focused on planning or implementation.

Ideal project proposals will target:

- New programs supporting working waterfronts
- Scoping/visioning workshops
- Waterfront plans, maritime zoning, codes, ordinances
- New planning tools

Who is Eligible?

Municipalities and counties in the coastal zone are eligible to apply for and receive funds on an annual basis. Maryland's coastal zone includes the following counties and the municipalities located within: Worcester, Somerset, Wicomico, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne's, Kent, Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's.

Website: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/workingwaterfronts.aspx>

WHAT?

Funding for a one year project to support revitalization of working waterfront communities and economies through planning or implementation

HOW MUCH?

Total request may not exceed \$60,000.
No matching funds are required

WHEN?

Application Deadline: June 30, 2017

HOW?

Submit proposals online through CCS's grants management service, at:
<http://mesgis.com/GrantsOnLine/>

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Maryland Working Waterfronts Program

Maryland's 16 coastal counties and Baltimore City contain 70% of Maryland's population and over 7,000 linear miles of shoreline. As a result, Maryland is particularly reliant on healthy coastal waters and resources. A wide range of marine uses drive the State's economy. In recent years, the State has experienced unprecedented growth along its shorelines resulting in associated increases in property values and coastal infrastructure. Some communities experiencing growth and development pressures strive to maintain water-dependent uses and rural landscapes at the core of their economic and cultural identity. In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly established the Maryland Working Waterfront Commission, which was tasked to evaluate and make recommendations about how the State could preserve the commercial fishing industry's access to public trust waters.

DNR's Working Waterfronts Program (WWP) assists with the preservation of existing and historic working waterfronts in Maryland. WWP engages partners throughout the state to define working waterfront lands, infrastructure and activities; identify community needs; and offer technical and financial assistance to ensure public access and support for water-dependent businesses and industries. This grant fulfills the Commission's recommendation that the state provide technical assistance in support of local planning and zoning for working waterfronts, while also acknowledging that historic uses may expand to meet the new or changing needs and conditions within waterfront communities.

Working Waterfronts Enhancement Grant

Program Objective

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Working Waterfronts Program is soliciting proposals from local governments for one-year projects, focused on planning or implementation, that result in a **program change**.

A program change includes the following:

- New or revised local codes and ordinances, statutes or regulations
- New or revised waterfront or comprehensive plans adopted by a county or municipality
- New or revised programs that could include: coastal land acquisition, management, maritime heritage, waterfront revitalization programs, aquaculture, job training

Supported Activities

Working Waterfronts Program encourages innovative approaches to waterfront planning and revitalization. Examples of project components may include, but are not limited to:

New programs supporting working waterfronts

- Development of programs to incentivize water-dependent uses of waterfront parcels while reducing the vulnerability of the built environment to coastal hazards and/or preserving and restoring natural or cultural resources.
- Development of job readiness programs to support workforce growth, and education programs to highlight maritime heritage and culture.
- Development of loan programs or fisheries cooperatives in support of working waterfronts.
- Development of programs to increase or preserve public access to coastal waters.



Scoping/visioning workshops

- Identify and engage the working waterfront community, assess community needs, and/or plan for future working waterfront infrastructure, facilities, and other investments.
- Identify future land acquisition priorities or construction projects that are essential to working waterfront function.
- Conduct public outreach or community engagement addressing multiple working waterfront components such as community visioning, local planning, coastal hazards and vulnerability of the built environment, competing uses, maritime heritage, tourism, recreation, and natural resources.

Waterfront plans, maritime zoning, codes, ordinances

- Development of new or updating of existing waterfront/port plans, maritime zoning, codes, ordinances, and policies to direct future waterfront uses or redevelop deteriorating or underutilized waterfronts/ports;
- Tax abatement policies in support of working waterfronts.
- Update comprehensive plans to support protection, enhancement, or revitalization of the working waterfront.
- Implement a sustainable development or waterfront/port development plan through innovative infrastructure siting and design.

New planning tools

- Development of planning tools to emphasize hazard mitigation or identify green infrastructure opportunities within the working waterfront.
- Development and/or implementation of GIS or mapping tools to identify working waterfront priority areas, public access needs, etc.

Funding

Projects will be funded as cooperative agreements between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and a local government. Projects that are approved for funding will be awarded on an annual basis and must be completed within 12 months of receiving the award. Each applicant is allowed one application per annual award cycle, with the total request not to exceed \$60,000. No matching funds are required.

Funds may be used for any of the following allowable uses which support the attainment of a program change:

- Project personnel costs;
- Supplies and overhead;
- Travel;
- Equipment (pursuant to relevant federal Office of Management and Budget Guidance);
- Projects, studies and reports; and
- Contractual costs including subcontracts, sub-awards, personal service contracts with individuals, memoranda of agreement/understanding, and other forms of pass through funding for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Section 309.

Funds **may not** be used for land acquisition or construction projects.



Application and Submission Information

Proposals, budgets, and additional documentation should be submitted online through the Chesapeake & Coastal Service's web-based grants management service, CCS Grants Online at: <http://mesgis.com/GrantsOnline/>.

First-time users will be prompted to create a profile, consisting of a unique username and password, prior to submitting a proposal. For step-by-step instructions, download "Proposal Guidelines and Application Instructions" at: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Documents/CCSGOL-ProposalGuidelinesApplication-CZM.pdf>.

Questions may be forwarded to Kelly Collins at kelly.collins@maryland.gov.

Once the user has logged in to CCS Grants Online, selected the funding source ("Working Waterfronts Enhancement Grant"), and provided some basic information, they will be prompted to download a "Detailed Proposal Template". The Detailed Proposal Template provides an outline of the preferred form and content of the proposal. Applicants may download, edit, and save the document until the proposal document is finalized and ready to be uploaded back into CCS Grants Online.

The completed proposal should be no more than 10 pages, single-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font. The 10-page limit does not include the proposal title page and any appendices (e.g. letters of support).

Proposal Review and Evaluation

Each project proposal will receive an initial screening by the Chesapeake & Coastal Service (CCS) to ensure the application meets basic eligibility criteria. CCS staff may follow up with selected applicants to discuss the projects further. Eligible proposals will then be evaluated by a State inter-agency review team.

Proposals will be evaluated based on how well the project meets the following priorities:

- Community support and demonstrated partnerships;
- Demonstrated economic and community need;
- Transferability to other communities;
- Consideration of natural resource conservation and/or restoration, potential flooding, and storm surge impacts;
- Alignment with local plans and/or complements ongoing waterfront planning efforts.

Applicants are encouraged to include partner letters of support and reference the Maryland Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Infrastructure Siting and Design Guidelines (http://dnr.maryland.gov/climateresilience/Pages/cs_Council.aspx), if applicable.

After review, CCS staff will work with selected candidates to finalize a Scope of Work for submittal to NOAA, who has final approval authority.



Solicitation Schedule

The anticipated schedule for the latest round of the Working Waterfronts Enhancement Grant is as follows:

RFP Issued	May 1, 2017
Proposals Due on CCS Grants Online	June 30, 2017
Project Selection (pending NOAA approval)	July 31, 2017
Project Funding to begin no earlier than	October 1, 2017

Program Authority

This grant is made possible by a partnership between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Funding is available through Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1456b). Thus, Working Waterfronts awards will be consistent with Section 309 Guidance published by the Office of Coastal Management.

Project Examples

The following activities have already been undertaken by Maryland counties and/or municipalities and serve as examples of fundable projects:

Example 1: Building a Framework for Sustainable Working Waterfronts: Cambridge, MD

The Maryland Environmental Finance Center worked with the City of Cambridge and a local Stakeholder Advisory Committee to develop a Working Waterfronts Framework. Project results included a crosswalk of current plans, including gaps and implementation needs, as well as an opportunity zone map that provides the City with an initial set of projects that can be implemented around the waterfront.

Example 2: Commercial Maritime District at West Ocean City Harbor

Worcester County added a Commercial Marine district to its zoning law which targeted West Ocean City Harbor. This district was developed to preserve and protect Worcester County's commercial fishing industry along with the commercial, industrial, and recreational uses dependent on waterfront access. The district protects commercial fishing operations and other marine activity against discrimination due to noise, odor, vibration, fumes, dust, or glare. These changes led to the division of the West Ocean City Harbor into commercial and recreational sections, as well as the designation of dock spaces for exclusive licenses to commercial fishermen.

Example 3: Town of Rock Hall Working Waterfront Master Plan

The Town of Rock Hall developed a Working Waterfront Master Plan for Rock Hall Harbor to improve the economic, environmental, and aesthetic conditions of the waterfront. This plan addressed public access, commercial fishing, recreation and tourism, and long-term function of the harbor, including coastal hazards.

Example 4: Tilghman Island and Bellvue Village Master Plans, Talbot County

Talbot County developed Village Master Plans for the waterfront communities of Tilghman Island and Bellvue. These plans developed strategies for the retention and expansion of water-dependent businesses, and waterfront access to working watermen, tourists, and village residents.

Example 5: Annapolis Working Waterfronts Awareness Program

The City of Annapolis developed a Working Waterfront Awareness Program to support maritime businesses. The program assists maritime businesses with networking and marketing via a website that will serve as an information toolkit and resource. The City held a Maritime Economic Summit to share best practices with state and local government and maritime stakeholders.