Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program

FY25 Request for Proposals

Chesapeake Bay Trust | 108 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403

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Introduction and Program Goals

The [Chesapeake Bay Trust](https://cbtrust.org) (Trust) is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the bays, streams, rivers, forests, parks, and other natural resources of our local systems, from the Chesapeake to the Coastal Bays to the Youghiogheny River. The Trust, supported in large part by Maryland's Chesapeake Bay License Plate, and partnerships with other regional funders, engages and empowers diverse groups to take actions that enrich natural resources and local communities of the Chesapeake Bay region. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded over 190 million in grants to municipalities, nonprofit organizations, schools, and public agencies throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program (https://cbtrust.org/g3), funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III, the Chesapeake Bay Program, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP), and the Chesapeake Bay Trust, welcomes requests for urban green infrastructure proposals.

The goal of the Chesapeake Bay G3 Grant Program is to help communities develop and implement plans that reduce stormwater runoff, increase the number and amount of green spaces in urban areas, improve the health of local waters and the Chesapeake Bay, and enhance quality of life and community livability. This work is intended to facilitate and encourage communities' integration of green techniques into traditional gray infrastructure projects.

The Trust recognizes that application processes can be complicated and time-consuming; the Trust continues to work to simplify our application processes where possible. New applicants, new organizations, small organizations, or any group that is experiencing capacity challenges or other barriers to applying, is eligible to receive guidance on the application process. Please contact the Program Manager, Megan Diehl, for assistance.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Trust staff to discuss applications *at least* two weeks prior to the deadline. The Trust cannot guarantee availability of site visits or project development assistance within two weeks of the deadline.

At A Glance

Program Summary:

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program is designed to support the planning, design, and implementation of green streets; community greening projects; and urban tree canopy projects that enhance livability in cities and communities, in addition to white papers and tools that address green infrastructure topics.

Deadline:

Monday, March 10, 2025, at 4:00 PM ET

Eligible Project Locations:

This program funds projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed portions of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and Virginia.

Request Amounts:

- Track 1: Conceptual Plans (up to $20,000)
- Track 2: Engineered Designs (up to $35,000)
- Track 3: Construction/Implementation (up to $175,000)
- Track 4: Community Greening (up to $50,000)
- Track 5: White Papers and Tool Development (up to $20,000)
- Track 6: Charrettes/Technical Assistance (no direct funding)

Submit Your Application:

Follow the instructions online at https://cbtrust.org/g3

Contact:

Megan Diehl, Senior Program Officer at 410-974-2941 ext. 139, mdiehl@cbtrust.org

This Request for Proposals was released on 12/9/2024

This program supports the **Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration Executive Order** (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2009/05/15/E9-11547/chesapeake-bay-protection-and-restoration and is a key part of **EPA's Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Partnership**. Since 2011, this partnership has funded local projects that reduce stormwater runoff in urban areas. The program now integrates climate adaptation, focusing on environmental justice for historically marginalized communities impacted by climate change (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/01/2021-02177/tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad).

The G3 program promotes **green stormwater infrastructure** as standard practice, fostering green infrastructure through market incentives and building local capacity. Expanding green spaces reduces pollutants (like sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus) in waterways. Green infrastructure practices—including rain gardens, tree canopies, pervious pavements, and bioswales—improve stormwater absorption, air quality, and urban livability, with benefits like reduced urban heat, improved walkability, and public health.

A "green street" minimizes environmental impact by integrating water quality and energy-efficient practices, reducing water discharge to rivers, and enhancing community aesthetics. Funded projects increase resilience to flooding and contamination while creating local green jobs. **Funding partners prioritize sustainable, long-term projects** with flood and hazard mitigation elements.

If your community needs support for flood resilience and climate adaptation, explore EPA's **Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center** at https://www.epa.gov/arc-x for technical assistance opportunities.

The Trust is committed to the advancement of diversity and inclusion in its award-making and environmental work. As a result, the Trust strongly encourages applications directly from underrepresented groups, and for projects that increase awareness and participation of communities that are traditionally underrepresented, such as communities of color. For a full description of the Trust's efforts to engage under-engaged groups, see our strategic plan at www.cbtrust.org/strategic-plan and https://cbtrust.org/diversity-inclusion/.

Eligible Applicants

Funding Partners and the Trust welcome requests from the following organizations:

- Local government agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Community and Homeowner Associations
- Faith-based Organizations
- Eligible applicants will have and maintain in full force and effect during the term of the proposed project liability insurance coverage in connection with the performance or failure to perform services proposed.

Eligible Project Locations and Funding Availability

Project Locations: This program funds projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed portions of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and Virginia. To determine if a project site is in the Chesapeake Bay watershed see the online map at https://cbtrust.org/g3.

Funding Availability: The funding partners anticipate approximately $1.3 million in funding is available in FY25.

Eligible Project Types

Applicants can request funds from one of the following project tracks detailed below. The general request amount for each project track is provided as guidance, though projects can exceed the request level with proper justification. **This grant program prioritizes the planning, design, and/or implementation of green street projects (tracks 1, 2, and 3).**

Applications for the green street concept plans, green street engineered designs, green street implementation, and community greening project types must not be required for new or re-development, regulatory mitigation, or regulatory offset.

Track 1: Conceptual Plans for Green Streets/Green Infrastructure Projects (up to $20,000)

This project track supports the development of a conceptual plan for green streets/green infrastructure projects. A concept plan is the first step in the planning process. The conceptual green street should be part of a broader, integrated community watershed plan. Conceptual plans for large-scale, high-performing green street/green stormwater infrastructure projects as defined above must treat over one inch of runoff. One of the most important criteria used to evaluate conceptual design proposals is the likelihood of ultimate implementation.

Track 2: Engineered Designs for Green Street/Green Infrastructure Projects (up to $35,000)

This project track supports the development of engineered designs for green streets/green infrastructure projects. Proposals for engineered designs should include all the design elements that would result in a final design that is implementable. Engineered plans for large-scale, high-performing green street/green stormwater infrastructure projects as defined above must treat over one inch of runoff. Such projects should be connected to a larger vision for a Green Town (e.g., comprehensive green streets, community resiliency programs, greening of school grounds, etc.). Cost projections shall be a part of the final design product and will include costs associated with implementation, operation, and maintenance. One of the most important criteria used to evaluate engineered design proposals is the likelihood of ultimate implementation.

The output of the award (i.e., the design) must be permittable by the appropriate state environmental agency and all other appropriate local, state, and federal entities. Generally, applicants have a conceptual design in hand when they apply for engineered design funding, and we recommend that you have a permit pre-application meeting based on that conceptual design before applying. State permit pre-application meetings are coordinated through Maryland's Department of the Environment (MDE), Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ), the District of Columbia's Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), or Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC).

At the completion of an engineered design project, the proposed designs and specification deliverables should be at least 90% complete. At a minimum, the output of a design project must include:

- Site map that includes:
    - Property boundaries;
    - Project boundary;
    - Field-run topographic survey of existing conditions;
    - Drainage area to the practice and impervious cover in the drainage area;
    - Mapped utilities and roads;
    - Proposed design (grade changes, drainage structures, rock placement, etc.) ; and
    - Landowner signature on the plan, which indicates project endorsement.

- Copy of soil survey mapping and <u>field confirmation of soil drainage class</u>;
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) web soil survey can be found at http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm
- Site details (e.g., topographic lines, land uses, and soils) are available at the Water Resources Registry where you can create an output with the desired metrics requested here and upload with your application: http://watershedresourcesregistry.com/;
- Planting plan (plant locations and plant types);
  - The Trust has resources to help you get started with using native plants: https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/External_Final-Trust-Draft-Plant-Species-Selection-Guide_May2021.pdf
- Site photos; and
- Calculations of the 1) total drainage area treated; 2) impervious acres treated; and 3) estimated cost per acre treated (at a one-inch runoff level).

Track 3: Implementation/Construction of Green Streets/Green Infrastructure Projects (up to $175,000)

This project track supports the construction of green streets and large-scale green infrastructure projects (e.g., rain gardens, bioretention cells, permeable surfaces, green roofs, etc.).

<u>The most competitive implementation/construction proposals will result in a complete green street that leverages funding from other sources for the gray infrastructure components</u> (streets, sidewalks, utility upgrades, etc.), and/or <u>repaving of a street or road realignment</u>. Applicants are also encouraged to leverage funds from hazard mitigation (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA)) or other water quality programs (e.g., https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-319.a). Local communities interested in pursuing a green streets initiative may consider their local government's road construction and maintenance schedule to infuse new green street elements into existing construction plans. This is a smart, cost-effective strategy because bioretention cells, permeable pavement, street trees, and other green street elements can be incorporated into already planned street construction projects at minimal additional cost. Completed engineered designs are strongly preferred.

<u>All requests must include: 1) a calculation of total drainage area treated; 2) calculation of impervious acre treated; and 3) estimated cost per acre treated (at a one-inch runoff level). It is also preferred that the estimated nutrient and sediment load reduction calculations for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediments are provided</u> (Applicants may use the Green SIMPLE calculator at https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Green_SIMPLE.xlsx). When calculating the cost of green infrastructure or cost per acre treated, proposals should separate these costs from traditional gray infrastructure costs that would have been incurred whether or not green elements were included (e.g., traditional paving, repair, standard mobilization, utilities, etc.). Proposals must also clearly list which costs were included in the cost per acre treated, as well as the formulas used to calculate/establish treatment area.

The majority of projects funded through this program have a per impervious acre treated cost of $100,000 to $200,000 in total project cost (excluding any gray infrastructure elements such as paving, sidewalks, etc.) and $70,000 to $150,000 in requested amount (not including match proposed). ***Funders consider a cost-effective project as one that costs less than $100,000 per impervious drainage acre treated (at a one-inch runoff level), not including costs of gray infrastructure elements.*** <u>The strongest proposals will incorporate innovative green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) and demonstrate cost-effectiveness of such practices</u>. Therefore, you should consider reducing costs by working together, even in your own community, to reduce the cost per impervious acre treated. Consider using free or discounted resources listed in Appendix A. Provide justification if your requested amount per impervious acre treated is more than $200,000.

WV DEP funding partners welcome requests for stream restoration design and implementation projects from West Virginia Chesapeake Bay communities. These applications must demonstrate project need, landowner

permission, use of the field's best practices and latest research (e.g., Pooled Monitoring Initiative research that is available at https://cbtrust.org/grants/restoration-research/), assessment of alternatives demonstrating the proposed restoration was appropriate for the site, minimization and avoidance of natural resources impacts like tree canopy, ability to proceed through the permit and construction process, and cost-effectiveness. See Appendix B for details on this project type. By supporting stream restoration projects, the WV DEP's objective is to support another aspect of the G3 grant program's goal of improving the health of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. This objective also concurs with a key component of the WV Watershed Implementation Plan (http://www.wvchesapeakebay.us/WIP/WIP3.cfm) to implement stream restoration as a co-benefit best management practice for attainment of state water quality standards.

Leveraging ongoing planning, design, and construction activities and private capital is important; the strongest proposals will describe projects pursued in concert with existing street and other gray infrastructure re-design and/or repair projects. The strongest proposals will also consider sustainability in terms of building and strengthening community coalitions that will continue to carry urban greening programs forward beyond the life of the award; address climate change adaptations; have clear maintenance plans and responsible parties for maintenance committed to the work; and support hazard mitigation planning efforts.

Track 4: Community Greening (up to $50,000)

This project track supports small to medium-scale community greening projects (e.g., tree plantings, community gardens and urban farms, pollinator gardens, conservation landscaping, reclaiming vacant lots to install site appropriate practices, etc.).

Trash-strewn, overgrown vacant lots and communities barren of trees and other green elements afflict urban neighborhoods. As envisioned in strategies such as the Baltimore Green Network Plan, vacant lots and barren streets can offer an opportunity to strengthen communities by bringing community members together to create and maintain community green space and walkable neighborhoods.

> **For projects in Maryland whose main element is tree planting**, we encourage applicants to apply to the Urban Trees Grant Program (https://cbtrust.org/urban-trees/). The Urban Trees Program aims to support trees planted that will green communities; enhance quality of life, human health, and community livability by improving air quality; reducing urban heat island effect; and mitigate the effects of climate change.
>
> To help determine if a community is eligible, view the online map at https://cbforg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3bce1e558f5a46cd86287ee5929cf079. This map was produced by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and can be used as a guide; the applicant has the ultimate responsibility for site eligibility.

Applicants may request funds for tree plantings, reclaiming vacant lots, installing community gardens and urban farms, implementing pollinator gardens, implementing other green infrastructure stormwater BMPs, and routine maintenance as identified through an approved maintenance plan. Funds may be requested for design, plant material, rental of equipment, up to two years of maintenance, and payment of maintenance staff.

Community greening projects will be evaluated on several criteria including the number of trees planted and total project cost (urban tree planting projects are generally in the range of $150 to $450 per tree planted, which includes the trees themselves, supplies, labor, one to two year maintenance costs, and tree pit work when necessary), community partnerships demonstrated, outreach and education to the community, and the amount of surface area being replanted or impervious area being treated (if a stormwater BMP is proposed), strength of the maintenance plan, budget for maintenance, inventory of maintenance equipment owned or available to the awardee, maintenance schedule, and ultimate community benefit for the project.

Track 5: White Papers and Tool Development (up to $20,000)

This project track supports white papers that summarize the analysis of one or more aspects of green infrastructure or tools that promote green infrastructure efforts. White papers may be proposed that summarize research of a priority subject to further green infrastructure use. Tools may be proposed that will bridge a gap or move applications forward to further green infrastructure use.

Examples of white paper topics and tools include, but are not limited to:

- **innovative strategies and techniques for improving long-term project maintenance** through new design considerations, development of regional best management practices or pilots that can be replicated across the Chesapeake Bay if successful, and/or creative ways to fund and sustain maintenance to ensure projects are aesthetically pleasing (beautiful to the passerby/owner) and continue to function properly to benefit the communities where they are installed;
- how to **incentivize maintenance operations, reduce maintenance costs**, and innovative techniques that contribute to the overall long-term success and treatment of green infrastructure projects;
- how green streets and green infrastructure help drive local economic development by creating **green jobs**;
- provide tools and/or **increase our understanding of the potential impacts of climate change** through the interactions between green infrastructure, community resilience to flooding, hazard mitigation, and other ways green streets can help make communities more resilient (e.g., methods to increase green infrastructure in local hazard mitigation planning, designing/siting green infrastructure to meet current and future rain events);
- how to **increase incorporation of green infrastructure in municipality public works** and planning operations (e.g., reduce communication barriers, integrated planning, etc.);
- **job training** for existing professionals and green job workforce development for those interested in environmental careers, to increase overall knowledge of green infrastructure maintenance techniques, inspection frequencies, and how to address common issues to help improve overall project success and sustainability;
- aim to **increase green career opportunities in underserved communities** to address environmental justice through green job training and workforce development programs (for more on environmental justice, visit EPA's Environmental Justice information page at https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice);
- how to **increase the understanding and measure additional benefits** of green streets/community greening (e.g., litter reduction, crime reduction, quality of life for residents);
- better understand health and health economics of green space installation in hospitals and other care facilities;
- how to use **green schools** as an anchor for a community green street;
- projects **that find and/or fix illicit discharges** (often part or in support of Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) programs) to ultimately raise awareness around this issue and reduce illicit discharges (e.g., sewer, pollutants of emerging concern, toxins, and other pollutants) entering waterways and the environment; an example project could be to educate a target audience on this topic and provide actions they can take when they see a potential illicit discharge community organizations or perform field assessments to find and fix illicit discharges; and
- some Chesapeake Bay states and local municipalities report obstacles during the permitting process with voluntary stormwater retrofit projects and, therefore, applications that address this and can be replicated in other areas are needed, e.g., conducting a training or workshop, showcasing success stories through case studies, and/or creating tools. .

Clearly outline how the white paper product or tool will lead to better implementation of green streets and how the information will be shared with priority audiences. Due to limited funding, we anticipate funding no more than one or two projects under this track per year.

Track 6: Green Street Charrette/Technical Planning Assistance (no direct funding)

A charrette is a planning or visioning session where community members, planners, developers, and other key stakeholders collaborate on the development of a green plan, vision, or design for a project. Funding partners anticipate providing technical assistance and financial support for a green street charrette and technical assistance to develop a concept plan and/or engineered design for applicants that:

> **Important Note for Track 6 Applicants:** Track 6 provides technical assistance and planning support, not direct funding from the Trust. Therefore, applications for this track should request $0. If selected, applicants will then work with the Trust and program partners directly to develop a future scope of work and budget requested for the future awardee conducing the effort. Typically, the Trust then releases an RFP to find a contractor to complete the proposed project and work directly with your organization!

- Demonstrate a need for additional support to successfully develop robust plans (i.e., with additional support through a charette and technical assistance targeted to the project will realize a product/outcome);
- Propose designs that support G3 objectives and address community need, hazard mitigation, and economic uplift to improve local quality of life and resilience to climate change;
- Demonstrate a willingness and ability to participate in a charette; and
- Demonstrate a willingness and ability to participate in additional technical assistance (i.e., the funding partners will provide contractual support to develop the concept plan and/or engineered design).

In addition, the following criteria will also be considered during the selection process:

- Applicants or jurisdictions that have not been awarded a grant through the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program will be prioritized;
- Applications should provide information about other related activities (e.g., planned road projects, redevelopment, etc.), planned greening efforts, community and/or regional projects, and activities which may be relevant to a potential charrette; and
- Applications that can provide match funding and involve a variety of public and private partners are encouraged.

The funding partners for this program will provide support through technical assistance, if approved. Charrette awardees will not receive direct funding through this grant program and instead will work directly with the funding partners who will provide direct contractual support for the technical assistance as determined through the charrette planning process. Funding partners anticipate funding one to three projects under this track per year. View this one pager to learn more about previously awarded projects from this project track at https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Green-Streets-Charrette-One-Pager_Final_11.28.23.pdf

Project Timeline

Project Timeline: Projects must be completed within 12 months upon receipt of the award. Requests to extend project completion period will be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis.

Online Application Submission Instructions

The Trust uses an online system for the application process, and if awarded, project management. To apply for an award, go to https://cbtrust.org/grants/green-streets-green-jobs-green-towns/ and click on "Get Started" to begin a new application. This will open a new window asking you to log in or create an account on our online system. If you have applied in the past, use your existing username and password (if you have forgotten

either of these use the 'forgot password' feature). If you have not used our online system before, click on "New Applicant" and follow the instructions.

Applicants must submit applications in the **Chesapeake Bay Trust Online System** by **4:00 pm on March 10, 2025.** Late applications will not be accepted, and the online funding opportunity will close promptly at 4:00 pm.

By submitting an application to this program, applicants acknowledge that: 1) they are compliant with federal employment and non-discrimination laws and 2) they have not been debarred, convicted, charged or had a civil judgment rendered against them for fraud or related offense by any government agency (federal, state or local) or been terminated for cause or default by any government agency (federal, state, or local). In addition, all final products will be provided to the funding partners for use and distribution at the sole discretion of the funding partners.

Deadline

Applicants must submit applications in the **Chesapeake Bay Trust Online System** by **4:00 PM EST on March 10, 2025**. Late applications will not be accepted, and the online funding opportunity will close automatically and promptly at 4 PM EST. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit at least a few days prior to the deadline given the potential for high website traffic on the due date. The Trust cannot guarantee the availability of technical assistance for our online system on the deadline date.

Online Application Form

You will be asked to provide the following information on the online application form. Some items are required in order to submit your application. Refer to the online application for details.

Eligibility Quiz: This three-question quiz is meant to assist you in determining if your project meets the requirements of this award program and that your staff/organizational structure best supports a successful application.

Applicant Information Tab: Provide the organization's name, mailing address, phone number, organization type, mission, EIN number, and SAM UEI number**.** If a MBE/WBE add certification number and state(s). Provide the Executive Officer and Project Leader's name, title, address, phone, and email address.

- Both an Executive Officer and a Project Leader, two separate individuals, must be identified for all applications.
- The Executive Officer and Project Leader must both be able to make decisions on behalf of the organization either as a board member, an employee, or other approved position recognized by the organization but not a contractor of the application.

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Definitions

The Executive Officer is the individual that oversees the organization (e.g., Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer, Mayor, President or Vice President, Principal (for schools), etc.) and has the authority to sign/execute award agreements on behalf of the organization. The Executive Officer information is tied directly to all the organization's applications and should not vary from application to application. If the Executive Officer could be listed as the Project Leader in a future proposal, we recommend listing a Board Member or other higher-ranking position of the organization as the Executive Officer in order to reduce the variation in the Executive Officer across applications.

The Program Leader will be responsible for all project coordination and correspondence with the Trust for the duration of the project. The email address entered here MUST be the same as the email address you used to log in to the online system. The Project Leader is the primary point of contact for the application, and the email address used to submit the application via the online system must be that of the Project Leader. Applications in which the email address associated with the Project Leader in the applicant information tab of the online opportunity does not match the email address used to submit the application will not be considered for funding. The Trust cannot conduct any official correspondence with contractors or other project partners. If at any time the Project Leader cannot continue in the position, the organization must contact the Trust and assign a new qualified Project Leader.

- To avoid conflict of interest issues, individuals associated with for-profit entities to be engaged in the project cannot serve in either role.

Project Information Tab: Provide a project title; project abstract; the watershed, county, and legislative district in which the project is located; and the latitude and longitude coordinates of the project location.

Timeline Tab: Add the project start and end date. Provide a project timeline that includes major tasks and their associated start and end dates.

Deliverables Tab: Provide estimated metrics for your proposed project such as project participants and outreach and restoration outcomes. Disregard deliverables that do not apply to your project.

Volunteers Tab: Provide a description of volunteer activities, the number of volunteers, and total number of volunteer hours.

Project Partnerships: Provide a list of project partner organizations or contractors, individuals, their areas of expertise, and their role(s) in your project.

Applicants are encouraged to upload a Letter of Commitment for the project from each partner describing in detail the partner's role or contribution to the project. Applications including strong Letter(s) of Commitment often receive higher scores. If not submitted with the application, Letter(s) of Commitment may be required prior to the release of any awarded funding. To better understand the Trust's definition of and policy on Letter(s) of Commitment, visit our Forms and Policies webpage: https://cbtrust.org/grants/applicant-resources-forms-policies/.

Narrative & Supporting Documents Tab: Use the link below to download the *required* narrative questions template for the track you are applying to. Complete all questions and upload the completed document as a Microsoft Word or PDF file:

REQUIRED NARRATIVE QUESTIONS TO ANSWER WITH YOUR APPLICATION SUBMISSION:
[FY25-Green-Streets-Grant-Program-Narrative-Questions_112823](#)

Budget Tab:

1. **Financial Management Spreadsheet – Application Budget Upload -** You will be asked to upload your budget using the "Application Budget" worksheet of the Chesapeake Bay Trust's **Financial Management Spreadsheet** (FMS), an excel file template. The template can be found by visiting https://cbtrust.org/grants/applicant-resources-forms-policies/ where you can watch a video with instructions on how to complete the FMS.
2. **Financial Management Spreadsheet – Application Budget Information -** This online application component will ask you to enter budget category and request totals. These totals will be automatically calculated in the FMS Application Budget, so you will only need to copy and paste the values from the FMS to the Online Application.
3. **Additional Budget Justification -** This online application component will ask you to provide a descriptive budget narrative to justify and explain costs. If the success of the work is contingent upon award of other funds, make this clear in your budget justification section.
   a. **Allowable costs and indirect:** For grants awarded with federal funding costs are allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200) as applicable. Federally funded awards must comply with the OMB Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200), including the most recent guidance (available at https://www.epa.gov/grants/whats-new-uniform-grants-guidance-2024-revision-2-cfr-200) for indirect and the Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) allowed.

b. **Assistance for your budget:** See also the EPA Indirect Cost Rates Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-01/epa-grants-indirect-cost-rates-webinar_faq_12.6.2023.pdf and if you need additional assistance with your budget, reach out to the Trust staff.

Terms and Conditions Tab: Agree to the specified terms and conditions for the program for which you are applying.

Demographics Tab and Survey Tab (optional): Provide voluntary demographic information. Provide information about your organization's current diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) efforts and future goals. Additionally, provide voluntary feedback on the application process.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used by technical expert reviewers to evaluate your proposal. For Track 5: White Papers and Tool Development projects, the "Infrastructure Plan Integration" and "Climate and Resiliency" criteria may not apply.

Criterion	Criterion Description and Guidance	Scale
Justification	• Is the need for the project clearly identified? • Can the reviewers understand what you are proposing to do and where you are proposing to do it? • Is the project proposed consistent with the intent of the project type selected? • Are the budgeted line items justified in the project narrative? • Is the project cost-effective ($150,000 or less per impervious acre treated)?	0 to 20 points
Likelihood of Project Success	• What is the likelihood of success if this project were to be funded? • Are methodologies and/or designs sound and consistent with best practices? • Has the applicant procured landowner permission, if necessary? • Has a permit pre-application meeting been conducted, if applicable? • Will the project be properly inspected during/after construction to ensure it is functioning as intended? • Does the project have an appropriate timeline and scale of budget to reflect the intended scope of work? • Are the selected partnerships appropriate (e.g., for green street projects, has right of way been resolved)? • Will the project be completed in one year or less?	0 to 15 points

Cost-effectiveness/ Budget	• Is the budget appropriate and cost-effective?
	   ○ For green street implementation projects, costs of proposals will be compared to the standard of $150,000 per impervious acre treated.
	   ○ For urban tree canopy projects, costs will be compared to the standard of $150 to $450 per tree planted, which includes the trees themselves, supplies, labor, two-years of maintenance costs, and tree pit work when necessary.
	• For work involving subcontractors:
	   ○ Were estimates from at least three consultants or contractors considered? or
		0 to 15 points

Criterion	Criterion Description and Guidance	Scale
	o Was a competitive bid process used? • In-kind and cash match is not required but will be viewed favorably as it will increase cost-effectiveness from the perspective of the funders.	
Sustainability	• Has the applicant addressed future project sustainability? • For implementation projects, will the project persist and be well-maintained and not be threatened by various types of disturbance? • Has the applicant proposed a relevant and robust maintenance plan? • Has the applicant addressed the need for ongoing resources to maintain the value of the project even after the award period has ended? • Does the project use local materials to make projects more sustainable and cost-effective?	0 to 15 points
Infrastructure Plan Integration	• Does the proposal demonstrate an effort to coordinate green infrastructure planning with other infrastructure planning? • Are the appropriate municipal agencies and partners involved?	0 to 15 points
Climate and Resiliency	• Does the project consider climate resiliency and flood hazard mitigation? • Does the project siting consider future water inundation areas projected by climate change? • Does the project incorporate innovative and sustainable solutions to preserve and enhance greenspace? • Are the native plants and trees selected for the project appropriate to the project location?	0 to 10 points
Audience Need	• Based on applicant provided information, is the audience being engaged in the project identified as historically under-engaged or under-served through indicators such as, but not limited to, communities that were at any point historically redlined or graded as "hazardous" by the Home Owners' loan corporation, socioeconomic status (communities in which median household income is equal to or less than 75% of state-wide median household income or have high poverty and unemployment rates (https://www.census.gov)), or other relevant characteristics as identified in the EPA EJScreen Tool (https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/)?	0 to 5 points
Demonstration Value	• Will this project further the understanding of stormwater management in local communities? • Will others be able to take lessons from this project and replicate a similar project in their own communities? • How can this project be used as a model or pilot for future efforts of green infrastructure?	0 to 5 points
	Total Score Possible	**100**

Application Review Process

Each application is reviewed by a Technical Review Committee (TRC), composed of individuals who are experts in the fields supported by this RFP and represent communities served by projects funded by this RFP. The TRC ranks and scores all applications based on the criteria listed in the "Evaluation Criteria" section above, then meets to discuss the application merits. The TRC then recommends a suite of applications to the Trust's Board of Trustees.

The funding partners reserve the right to fund projects and budget items that advance their missions and meet specific funding priorities and criteria.

To allow applicants to set expectations prior to investing time in application, the Trust provides historical application approval rates for the same or similar programs. The average approval rate from the last three rounds in this grant program is 45%, including both fully and partially funded applications.

Awards and Notifications

The FY25 Green Streets grant program awards will be announced June 2025.

All applicants will receive a letter stating the funding partnership's decision. An application may be declined, partially awarded, or fully awarded. If approved, the Trust will send an award agreement with award conditions and due dates of status, progress, and final reports. The Trust will mail the first award payment to the requesting organization following: satisfaction of any phase one payment award contingencies, including upload of the signed award agreement. Ten percent of the total award will be held until the final report is submitted and approved. In cases where the awardee fails to submit a status report, progress report, final report, or other requirement by the due date, the Trust reserves the right to terminate the award agreement and require a refund of funds already transferred to the awardee.

When the project is complete, awardees are required to complete final reports that may include but are not limited to submission of all receipts for supplies, invoices for subcontractors/contractors, and copies of timesheets for personnel time used (timesheets must include date, name, time worked per day, and coding to tie the time worked to the award).

All financial back-up documentation will be grouped and numbered to correspond to the budget line item reported as spent. Organizations with outstanding final, progress, or status reports will not be awarded additional grants.

Appendix A: Project Resource Pool

As an incentive to encourage and support applications, resources, supplies, and services are available free of charge. This project resource pool offers supplies and materials that may be necessary to complete implementation projects and can reduce project costs being requested in the original budget request. These resources should be included in your application as match and are only available to those receiving an award. The list is not extensive and may change based on product availability. If you know of services or resources that may be added to this list, email Megan Diehl at mdiehl@cbtrust.org.

Currently we have the following resources available for awardees in:

Washington Metro Area

DC Water produces EPA-certified 'Exceptional Quality' biosolids to be used for increasing the organic matter in soils. These biosolids are the product of an intensive and technologically advanced process that uses high heat, pressure, and biological processes to remove pathogens found in wastewater and convert carbon to digester gas. DC Water's soil amendment products meet all US EPA standards for use in home and garden projects. Class A biosolids contain no pathogens and very low levels of metals. DC Water goes beyond these standards to produce EPA-certified Exceptional Quality biosolids. The process that produces Bloom is just accelerated nature, producing clean, green, sustainable energy and a soil amendment. DC Water is offering up to 15 cubic yards of Bloom Soil (https://bloomsoil.com/) Amendment to Green Streets awardees. There is a delivery charge of $150 for up to 15 yards for the DC metro area. Free pickup can also be arranged directly with Bloom.

Community ToolBanks

Awardees receiving an award through the G3 Program will have access to tools and equipment for a nominal fee (three cents on the dollar) allowing the Green Streets Grant Program funds to go to more project-based items.

The Baltimore Community ToolBank (https://www.baltimoretoolbank.org/) offers an impressive inventory of tools and other supplies for cents to the dollar to complete community-based projects in Baltimore City. The Baltimore Community ToolBank tools are only available to organizations whose work benefits the community.

The Richmond, VA Community ToolBank (https://richmondtoolbank.org/) provides year-round access to tools and equipment to not-for-profit organizations for a nominal fee, maximizing agencies' financial and human resources and empowering them to improve community engagement and to achieve greater impact for those they serve.

Appendix B: West Virginia Stream Restoration Applicant Information

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Award Program welcomes funding partners across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. New this year the program's West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection requests applications for green street stormwater practices including stream restoration practices. The Trust and US EPA Region III support stream restoration through other funding opportunities.

Stream health is impacted by landscape and in-stream conditions emphasizing the benefits of coordinating green street efforts with stream restoration. By funding stream restoration project designs and implementation, the funding partners aim to provide local governments and non-profit organizations the ability to quickly progress through each phase of work. The funding partners envision the products of grants funded under this opportunity will enable grantees to:

- Move designs to future implementation through the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, grant programs at the Chesapeake Bay Trust, or other sources of support and
- Accomplish on-the-ground restoration that will result in improvements to the health of West Virginia streams, through water quality improvement and habitat enhancement.

If your application includes stream restoration design and/or implementation in West Virginia, ensure that your application includes the following elements for consideration by reviewers:

1. Demonstrate project need, e.g., stream banks experiencing erosion, stormwater practices implemented/considered higher in the watershed draining to this site, etc.).
2. Present the alternative analysis (detail the alternative practices and/or practice types were considered at the site leading to the recommendation for the proposed practice and practice type).
3. Describe the practice type and the goals of the project to clearly link the goals to that practice type. Funding partners will consider stream restoration designs and/or implementation projects that aim reduce erosion and provide enhancements to the hydrology, habitat, vegetation, etc. while reducing impacts to existing natural resources.
4. Describe the existing conditions of the site and how the project will avoid natural resource impacts; avoidance of natural resources is required, including avoidance of trees and existing wetlands, to the maximum extent practicable.
5. Describe existing utilities at the site and detail how you determined that the project will not adversely affect public safety, infrastructure, and/or properties.
6. Describe the assessment that has or will be done for the drainage above ground and through underground pipes (if present) and avoiding utilities.
7. Use of the field's best practices per the US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, WV DEP, and the Trust. Refer to the US EPA's Expert Panel reports and budget for any required additional calculations, sampling, and modeling that will be completed during the design phase that are available at:

http://chesapeakestormwater.net/bmp-resources/urban-stream-restoration/. The Trust highly recommends applicants interested in stream restoration practices review and be familiar with the most recent science to make informed decisions on site selection and technique. Research gathered through the Pooled Monitoring Initiative's Restoration Research Program focused on stream restoration has been shared on the Trust's website (https://cbtrust.org/grants/restoration-research/ - found under the "Additional Information", "Awarded Projects and Final Products" tab). Particularly, applicants may find final products from the following projects of relevance:

    a. Evaluating the Effectiveness and Sustainability of Novel Stream Restoration Designs for Coastal Plain Streams in Maryland: Integrating Existing and New Data from Stream Restoration Monitoring, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Dr. Solange Filoso

    b. Tree Trade-Offs in Stream Restoration Projects: Impact on Riparian Groundwater Quality, University of Maryland College Park, Dr. Sujay Kaushal

    c. Quantifying the ecological uplift and effectiveness of differing stream restoration approaches in Maryland, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Dr. Robert Hilderbrand

    d. Determining realistic expectations for ecological uplift in urban stream restorations, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Dr. Robert Hilderbrand

    e. Evaluating the Performance of Regenerative Stormwater Conveyances in Urban Versus Rural Watersheds, Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Thomas Jordan

    f. Improving Success of Stream Restoration Practices – Revised and Expanded, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Dr. Theresa Thompson

    g. Determining the effects of legacy sediment removal and floodplain reconnection on ecosystem function and nutrient export, Towson University, Dr. Vanessa Beauchamp

    h. Quantifying the cumulative effects of stream restoration and environmental site design on nitrate loads in nested urban watersheds using a high-frequency sensor network, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Dr. Claire Welty

    i. Climate Impacts to Restoration Practices, Tetra Tech, Inc., Dr. Jon Butcher

    j. Impacts of Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance on Iron in Restored Streams and Potential Effects on Aquatic Organisms, EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC, Dr. Jamie Suski

    k. Vertebrate Community Response to Regenerative Stream Conveyance (RSC) Restoration as a Resource Trade-Off, Tetra Tech, Inc., Dr. Mark Southerland

8. Describe the experience with similar projects for the team proposing to do this work. Designs shall be done by licensed/registered professionals.

9. Detail how materials will be delivered to the site, where materials will be stored, and how construction equipment will be safely managed during the project.

10. Describe your ability to proceed through the permit and construction process:

    a. The output of a design award must be permittable by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and all other appropriate local, state, and federal entities.

    b. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate department at WVDEP during the conceptual design phase and make an appointment to discuss their project with the permit reviewers. Appropriate departments can be identified through WVDEP permitting webpages:

        i. https://dep.wv.gov/Permits/Pages/default.aspx and

        ii. https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsource/streamdisturbance/Pages/default.aspx

11. Describe proposed maintenance and long-term sustainability of the project. Designs will be evaluated to ensure that completed projects are self-sustaining and will not require continuous manipulation for future project sustainability. If stream restoration implementation is being proposed, describe how the

project will persist and be well-maintained in the future (and not threatened by various types of disturbance), including addressing any ongoing resources needed to maintain the value of the project.

12. Provide the following metrics for your project: linear feet to be designed, drainage area treated/planned (acres), impervious acre treated, estimated load reductions (lbs. of N, P, and S reduced), and estimated cost of design ($).

13. Justify the cost-effectiveness of the project. Provide assurances that the best price was provided (e.g., were multiple estimates/quotes obtained for contractors) and is reflective of current, market prices/values. The table below provides dollar ranges in which approximately 75% of proposals in the past two rounds of the Trust's Watershed Assistance Grant Program were funded.

Practice Type	Linear Feet to be Designed	Impervious acre treated	Lb N Reduced	Lb P Reduced	Lb S Reduced
Stream Restoration	$26 to $80 per ft	$4 to $4,700 per acre	$37 to $550 per Lb	$85 to $800 per Lb	$4.50 to $2,000 per Lb

Appendix C: Additional Resources

These additional resources can support your application and project.

1. Avoiding and Minimizing Risk of Flood Damage to State Assets: https://documents.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy/Documents/DE%20Flood%20Avoidance%20Guide%20For%20State%20Agencies.pdf
2. Baltimore City Green Network Plan (preferred areas for Baltimore City projects): http://www.baltimoresustainability.org/projects/green-network/
3. Chesapeake Bay Trust Additional Resources Page, specifically the "Restoration," Signage," and Maintenance" categories: https://cbtrust.org/additional-resources/
4. Chesapeake Bay Trust Green Streets Grants page and example Green Streets Grant projects: https://cbtrust.org/grants/green-streets-green-jobs-green-towns
5. Chesapeake Bay Resources for Native Plants: https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/External_Final-Trust-Draft-Plant-Species-Selection-Guide-_Oct2021.pdf
6. Climate Impacts to Restoration Practices (supported through the Pooled Monitoring Program): https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Grant16928-Deliverable11-FinalProjectReport_120820.pdf
7. Example Green Street Charrette and Concept Design Report for Huntington, West Virginia: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/documents/resilient_by_design_huntington_charrette_report_final_12_26_19_.pdf
8. Minority and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MBE/DBEs) for each state:
   - MD https://marylandmdbe.mdbecert.com/
   - PA https://www.dgs.internet.state.pa.us/suppliersearch
   - DC https://dcdslbd.my.salesforce-sites.com/public/
   - DE https://deldotcivilrights.dbesystem.com/FrontEnd/searchcertifieddirectory.asp
   - VA https://sbsd.virginia.gov/directory/
   - NY https://ny.newnycontracts.com/frontend/searchcertifieddirectory.asp
   - WV https://apps.sos.wv.gov/business/corporations/searchadvanced.aspx
9. NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer: https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slr.html
10. NRCS Web Soil Survey: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm
11. Piloting the Development of Probabilistic Intensity Duration Frequency (IDF) Curves for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (supported through the US EPA Goal Implementation Team program): https://www.rand.org/pubs/tools/TLA1365-1.html

12. Presentations and handouts from the Green Streets Forum held November 6, 2019: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Tr9uxWVGx3AZukHmZu0ZurDuHzGP_-PS
13. US EPA Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center: https://www.epa.gov/arc-x#:~:text=EPA%27s%20Adaptation%20Resource%20Center%20(ARC,tailored%20specifically%20to%20their%20needs
14. US EPA Community Based Public Private Partnership Guide: https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/community-based-public-private-partnerships
15. US EPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool: https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen
16. US EPA Green Street, Green Jobs, Green Towns website: https://www.epa.gov/G3/green-streets-green-jobs-green-towns-g3-grant-program
17. US EPA Storm Smart Cities: Integrating Green Infrastructure into Local Hazard Mitigation Plans: https://www.epa.gov/G3/storm-smart-cities-integrating-green-infrastructure-local-hazard-mitigation-plans
18. US EPA Storm Smart Schools Guide: https://www.epa.gov/G3/storm-smart-schools-guide-integrate-green-stormwater-infrastructure-meet-regulatory-compliance