

FY 2025 | Community Grant Application
Deadline April 30, 2026
3:30 P.M.



Organization Name: Anacostia Watershed

Executive Director/Officer Chris Williams

Fiscal Sponsor Name: N/A

Mailing Address 4302 Baltimore Avenue, Bladensburg, MD

Phone Number (301) 699-6204 Email sjohnson@anacostiaws.o

Federal ID# 52-166651

Incorporation Date 1989 501 (c) (3) Registration Date 1989

Project Title Bladensburg Environmental Education Boat

Project Location Bladensburg Waterfront Park and the Anacostia River,

CERTIFICATION

"I certify that I have reviewed this application and that, to the best of my knowledge, all statements and figures contained herein are true, accurate, and complete. If your organization does not have a Board of Directors, please indicate "NA" on the signature line and have the Organization's Director sign.

Signature of Chief Executive Officer Date

Print Name Chris Williams Title President and CEO

Address 4302 Baltimore Avenue, Bladensburg, MD

Phone 301-699-6204 Email cwilliams@anacostiaws.or

Provide the following information about your clients based on your most recent data. Information current as of (date) _____

RESIDENCE OF CLIENTS SERVED (*Preference will be given to agencies serving Bladensburg residents*)

Town of Bladensburg	<u>40</u>
Prince Georges County	<u>30</u>
Port Towns (Edmonston, Cottage City, Colmar Manor)	<u>10</u>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - Provide a brief summary of your project and organization. Please include the following: the project purpose, the number of people in **the Town of Bladensburg** to be served, and how the Town grant funds will be used.

AWS is requesting \$2,000 from the Town of Bladensburg to support environmental education boat tours for residents of Bladensburg and the Port Towns. These tours provide place based learning experiences that connect participants directly to the Anacostia River while building awareness of watershed health, water quality, wildlife, restoration, and stewardship.

This project will serve approximately 80 residents, with a focus on youth and families. Grant funds will support program delivery, outreach, and educational materials. The tours will help residents experience the river as a community asset and serve as an accessible entry point into continued education, volunteerism, and stewardship.

PROGRAM INFORMATION - Describe the overall or general purpose of your agency and how it serves the residents of Bladensburg.

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia watershed for all who live here and for future generations.

AWS pursues this mission through policy advocacy, field conservation and restoration initiatives, adult and youth education and outreach programs, and volunteer and recreation activities. Education boat tours are one way AWS connects residents to the river through direct experience, helping participants understand local ecology, water quality, restoration efforts, and the role communities play in protecting the watershed.

For Bladensburg residents, these tours offer a meaningful opportunity to experience the Anacostia River as part of their own community and to better understand the environmental, social, and quality of life benefits of a restored river.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY (Prior Grant Award Applicants Only) - If you received Town Grants last year, please evaluate the progress you have made in implementing the project. Please discuss factors that may have hindered your progress

COMMUNITY NEED/POPULATION BEING SERVED- Describe the issue or community that needs to be addressed. Provided the demographic data and geographic information used to determine the extent of the problem or the need not being addressed.

Bladensburg is a riverfront community within the Anacostia watershed, yet many residents, particularly youth and families, have limited opportunities to experience the river through structured environmental education. Without direct access and guided learning, the river can remain separate from daily community life rather than understood as a shared natural resource.

This project will serve approximately 80 Bladensburg and Port Towns residents through education boat tours that are accessible, locally relevant, and focused on the health of the Anacostia River. Participants will learn about water quality, wildlife, habitat restoration, and ways they can support a healthier watershed.

By connecting residents directly to the river, this project supports environmental sustainability, community pride, and long term stewardship.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- Please provide a detailed description of the program you are proposing. Please include the group of people you plan to serve, the expected number of participants, the activities or services you will provide, and the location of the program/project.

AWS will provide environmental education boat tours for Bladensburg and Port Towns residents at or near Bladensburg Waterfront Park. Tours will be led by trained AWS staff and will combine direct river access with structured learning about the Anacostia watershed.

Participants will observe local wildlife and habitat conditions, learn about water quality and restoration efforts, and discuss how individual and community actions affect the river. The tours are designed to be educational, accessible, and engaging for youth, families, and community members.

AWS expects to provide approximately five boat tours serving about 80 residents during the grant period. These tours will serve as an entry point into continued engagement with AWS education programs, volunteer opportunities, and broader watershed stewardship.

METHODOLOGY- Describe the methodology (or approach) for the proposed program/project, e.g., the procedures, tasks, techniques, or tools you will use to develop the program.

Anacostia Watershed Society will implement this project using its established model for delivering environmental education boat tours. Staff will coordinate scheduling, conduct targeted outreach to Bladensburg residents and community partners, and manage participant registration to ensure strong local participation.

Each tour will be led by trained educators and will follow a structured format that integrates place based learning, guided observation, and interactive discussion. Participants will learn about watershed ecology, water quality, and local restoration efforts while directly experiencing the Anacostia River.

AWS will use existing equipment, curriculum, and safety protocols to ensure consistent and high quality program delivery. Participation will be tracked and basic outcomes will be documented to inform future engagement and reporting.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND IMPACT - Please provide activities and events that your organization has held within the Town of Bladensburg and the Port Towns. Tell us about the impact of your community activities.

Anacostia Watershed Society maintains an active presence in Bladensburg and the Port Towns through education, outreach, and river based programming that connects residents directly to the Anacostia River. AWS prioritizes engagement that is place based and accessible, ensuring that community members can meaningfully experience and understand the river as part of their neighborhood.

Education boat tours are a key part of this approach and serve as an entry point for residents, particularly youth and families, to engage with the river in a structured and supportive environment. These experiences build awareness of local environmental conditions, highlight ongoing restoration efforts, and create opportunities for continued involvement.

Through this work, AWS contributes to broader community revitalization by activating the waterfront, strengthening community connection to natural resources, and reinforcing the role of the river as a shared community asset.

ORGANIZATION CAPABILITIES - Describe the organization's ability to implement the program/project

Anacostia Watershed Society has over 35 years of experience delivering environmental education, restoration, and community engagement programming across the 176-square-mile Anacostia watershed. Each year, AWS engages approximately 10,000 students through education programs and provides river-based experiences, including boat tours, to more than 1,500 community members.

The organization maintains trained staff, including three educators and a network of dozens of volunteers, along with established curriculum and the operational infrastructure necessary to safely and effectively implement this project.

AWS has the administrative and financial capacity to manage grant funds responsibly and complete all required reporting.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: Please attach any materials that will provide more context for your activities and events in the Town of Bladensburg and the Port Towns. *Examples include event flyers, social media posts, links to media articles, and other information on your organization.*

PROJECT BUDGET

Please see the project budget template, which includes all budget items and the total for each.

Note the funding cap of this grant is **\$2000.00**.

Budget Category	Description	Requested Amount (\$)
Personnel	(Stipends for project staff, if applicable)	\$800
Supplies & Materials	(List project-related items such as tools, equipment, or materials)	\$300
		\$0
Contractual Services	(Payments for external services such as consultants or instructors)	\$0
Event Expenses	(Venue rental, permits, marketing, refreshments, etc.)	\$500
Printing & Outreach	(Flyers, posters, online ads, or other marketing materials)	\$300
Transportation	(Mileage reimbursement or rental costs, if applicable)	\$100
Other Costs	(Miscellaneous expenses essential to the project)	
Total Requested	(Must not exceed \$2,000)	<u>\$ 2,000</u>