

Questions for the Chesapeake Bay Program DEIJ Grant

Q1. Are entities located outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed eligible to apply?

A1. Yes, entities located outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed are eligible.

Q2. Are entities located outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed permissible partners?

A2. Yes, entities located outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed are permissible partners. See "Section 3.D.4 Partners", page 14, in the Request for Applications for additional information on partners.

Q3. Are there any types of specific projects the agency is looking to support?

Q3. The purpose of this grant is to support the Chesapeake Bay Program implement the goals outlined in [Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Implementation Plan](#) (Implementation Plan). The Implementation Plan aims to: 1) Grow racial and ethnic diversity in the partnership from 13% to 25% (including 15% of leadership); 2) Help partners develop as DEIJ leaders who understand, respect, and embrace cultural diversity, and 3) Provide partners with the tools to continually assess progress toward diversity goals.

Q4. What does a successful workplan look like to the grant review panel?

Q4. The applicant's proposed workplan should have quantifiable measures and milestones and state the targets to be achieved. The workplan should describe how a DEIJ coordinator(s) will complete priority actions identified in the [Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Implementation Plan](#) (Implementation Plan). To achieve the goals outlined in the Implementation Plan the applicant will provide subject matter expertise, complete priority actions, and establish the systems of practice (including accountability systems for tracking activities and progress), policies, and a culture of inclusion, respect, and mutual learning necessary to advance the partnership's DEIJ goals.

Q5. Is there a match requirement for this grant?

Q5. No, there is not a match requirement.

Q6. We are not members or part of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Are we still eligible to apply?

Q6. Yes. Applicants do not need to be members or part of the Chesapeake Bay Program to be eligible. See "Section 1.6 Eligibility", page 5, in the Request for Applications for additional information on eligibility.

Q7: What is the partnership's goal and desired outcome of the grant recipient?

A7. The purpose of this grant is to support the Chesapeake Bay Program coordinate and implement the goals outlined in [Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Implementation Plan](#) (Implementation Plan). The grantee will field a person(s) who will provide subject matter expertise to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of key elements of the Implementation Plan. Given the complexity of the work and the number of stakeholders involved, a preferred way to complete the goals of the grant would be to identify a qualified coordinator. This coordinator will provide subject matter expertise, complete priority actions identified in the Implementation Plan. See page 24 of the Request for Applications for more information on outcomes and outputs.

Q8. Is the partnership/DOEE's grant intended to focus on the DC area or the entire Chesapeake Bay region?

A8. The focus is on the entire Chesapeake Bay region.

Q9. How would the DC partnership be able to give the grantee money?

A9. Through funding provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant, DOEE will fund a qualified applicant to administer the grant via a grant agreement. In the overwhelming majority of cases, DOEE's policy is to reimburse supported, approved, and allowable expenses. If the Applicant seeks an advance payment, it must request advance payment in its application and explain why an advance payment is requested. See "Section 6. Reporting, Payment, and Other Provisions", page 19, in the Request for Applications for additional information.

Q10. Is this grant opportunity offered annually?

A10. This is the first time this grant is being offered. The project period is 12 months from the date of the award. This period can be amended to continue for two (2) additional years, for a total of three (3) years, and additional funds added depending upon DOEE's determination of need, the performance of the grantee and the availability of funds.

Q11. Is there any expectation that the coordinator would be housed at the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program or the District Department of Energy and Environment offices?

A11. No. There is no expectation that the coordinator would be housed at the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program office or the District Department of Energy and Environment's office. However, requests for the coordinator to work in-person at the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program office will be considered.

Q12. Do both the applicant and designated coordinator need to meet all requirements to be selected for the grant?

A12. A successful applicant will demonstrate the coordinator and personnel actively working on the project have the expertise collectively to achieve the goals associated with the grant. Applicants will be scored accordingly depending on the demonstrated expertise. See "Scoring Criteria", page 24, in the Request for Applications for additional information.

Q13. Does this grant address employee retention rates?

A13. The purpose of this grant is to support the Chesapeake Bay Program coordinate and implement the goals outlined in Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan addresses employee hiring, promotion, and retention in Section 2.1.a Subtasks 2 and 3, Section 2.1.b, Section 2.2.a Subtask 2, Section 2.2.b Subtask 1 and Section 2.3.b Subtask 3.

Q14. Does the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program and the District Department of Energy and Environment understand how intangible and unquantifiable this work is? How will the Department of Energy and Environment address progress that does not fall within the allotted guidelines of the RFA?

A14. Yes, the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Department of Energy and Environment understands that aspects of the outlined work are intangible. The Implementation Plan outlines how the Chesapeake Bay Program partners will address progress, including action items that do not fall within the allotted guidelines of this grant. The applicant is welcome to propose additional methods to address progress in their application.

Q15. How were [Restoration from the Inside Out: A Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Strategy for the Chesapeake Bay Program](#) and the [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Implementation Plan](#) received by the general public?

A15. Both the Strategy and Implementation Plan were generally well-received by the partnership organizations and organizations working in this space across the Chesapeake Bay region. A draft of the

Implementation Plan was released for a 45-day public comment period in summer 2021. The plan received comments from a range of organizations, including Federal agencies and local NGOs), and several residents. The DEIJ Action team responsible for drafting the implementation plan posted a Response to Comments document detailing how comments were addressed in the final version of the plan. You can review comments received and responses via this link:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/43968/cbp_deij_plan_public_comment_response_november_2021.pdf

Q16. How would the work be prioritized against competing tasks by the organization’s staff and partners?

A16. Advancing DEIJ and Environmental Justice is a partnership priority, as described in the Executive Council’s statement and the Principals’ Staff Committee’s complementary [DEIJ Action Statement](#). To enable implementation of the plan and accountability of partnership staff and workgroups, the Principals’ Staff Committee approved the [DEIJ Implementation Plan Performance Tracking and Accountability Framework](#). Together, the implementation plan and framework set out a vision and structure for how the partnership will follow-through with the actions identified in the plan.

Q17. Why is the Chesapeake Bay Program not moving forward with your previous contractor (Skeo Solutions) to carry out the Implementation Plan?

A17. Skeo Solutions was contracted to complete the DEIJ Strategy and host a series of cultural humility trainings for Chesapeake Bay Program partner staff. The scope of work did not include funding to coordinate execution of the Implementation Plan.

Q18. What alternative documentation can be supplied to have an application considered “filed” while we work to obtain the Certificate of Clean Hands.

A18. If a government agency must issue a required document, such as the Certificate of Clean Hands, and the Applicant has requested the document but not received it, DOEE may accept a copy of the Applicant’s written request to the agency for the purpose of deeming the Application “filed.” See section 3.4 Required Documents, page 16, in the Request for Applications for additional information.