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 permittable partners?
A2. Yes, entities located outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed are permittable 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 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 understand 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.