

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funding Opportunity Title: Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Funding Program

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Submittal Date: Proposals must be received by **March 31, 2012**

Contact Information: DEP Central Office
Dave Lewis
Bureau of Conservation and Restoration
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8555
Harrisburg, PA, 17105-8555
(717) 783-5205
dalewis@pa.gov

Funding Opportunity Description: Funds for the Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Funding Program (SPFP) are available to county conservation districts within the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. It is anticipated that approximately \$800,000 will be available for SPFP for FY 2012. Funds will be allocated to projects located within EPA designated priority watersheds (list attached), but may be allocated outside of these priority watersheds if there is sufficient justification of the benefits of the project, the project results in significant nutrient and sediment reductions, and the project significantly supports the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).

Funding Priorities Information: SPFP applications must clearly state how the project meets the goals of the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay WIP and the conservation district's County Implementation Plan (CIP). All projects and best management practices (BMPs) will be considered. Priority will be given to projects located in EPA designated priority watersheds (list attached). Priority will also be given to projects that focus on:

- Non-structural BMPs that provide cost-effective solutions for the reduction of nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay. These include no-till/conservation tillage, cover crops, and conservation and nutrient management planning activities. Higher priority will be given to projects that plan to develop Phosphorous based nutrient management plans.
- Riparian corridor protection/restoration improvements, that provide cost-effective solutions for the reduction of nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay. These include streamside practices, streamside animal fencing, and riparian buffers)
- Implementation of the County specific 5 year Educational Outreach Plan
- Manure storages that fit within the CIP and are matched with other funding sources.

As the Department continues to focus limited resources toward restoring impaired waters, it is becoming increasingly important to coordinate with other funding sources such as the federal Farm Bill, federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management

Program, PennVest and Growing Greener. Districts are encouraged to consider the priorities listed in these programs as you develop SPFP applications. Districts are also encouraged to submit projects that leverage the \$13.9 million available through USDA's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative. Acceptable proposals could include funding for either technical service providers or district staff positions to complete the necessary planning, design, and implementation work that will be required to utilize this available funding source.

Guidelines for the funding of no-till, cover crops, and stream-bank fencing that were released with the FY 2010 SPFP grant announcements still apply.

Award Information: This solicitation announces that funds may be available beginning July 1, 2012. The individual SPFP award amounts will be determined by the proposals received and available funds. Funding is anticipated to fund projects for up to 2 years in duration, but is dependent on the amount of funding available. SPFP projects that will spend grant funds in one year or less will receive additional consideration when ranked.

There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards to all qualified projects. The exact amount of funds awarded will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and DEP representatives. This notice does not oblige DEP to award funding to any specific project or to obligate any available funds. If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so at their own risk of not being reimbursed by DEP.

Application and Submission Information: Separate applications must be submitted for each Special Project. Electronic application packages are available at: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=554224&mode=2> Applicants are encouraged to submit the application electronically.

This form can be printed out and submitted as a paper application as well. If the applicant has difficulty accessing the website or downloading the required forms, they should contact Dave Lewis (Contact information on Page 1)

Potential applicants are encouraged to consult with their appropriate DEP Regional Office and DEP Chesapeake Bay Field Representative (CBFR) to discuss project ideas in the context of the counties CIP and the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay WIP goals and objectives.

Application deadline is March 31, 2012. Applicants must submit (2 copies) of each completed application package including the outputs/budget page to the appropriate Regional Office (address below) before March 31, 2012.

DEP Southcentral Regional Office
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200
Contact: Scott Williamson scwilliams@pa.gov (717) 705-4817

DEP Northcentral Regional Office
Suite 101, 208 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
Contact: Patricia Havens phavens@pa.gov (570) 327-3667

DEP Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes Barre, PA 18711-0790
Contact: Peter Tarby ptarby@pa.gov (570) 826-2102