



Technical Capacity Mini-Grants

Request for Proposals

September 2, 2008

Purpose

With funding from an EPA Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant (Cooperative Agreement No. WS-83362101), the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) is currently inviting proposals to its Technical Capacity Mini-Grant program, awarding direct assistance and financial support to a wide range of small watershed organizations.

Up to ten \$5,000-15,000 grants will be awarded to strengthen the technical capacity of these groups in the area of stormwater and watershed management. These grants may be awarded in the form of direct assistance from CWP staff. Alternatively, mini-grant recipients may also receive cash assistance and tailored information where necessary. Examples of this may include referral to additional service providers for technical assistance, other watershed funding sources, and sources of volunteer assistance. Another option is to apply for cash assistance to be used as part of an advanced internship program at CWP. The award would be utilized for travel expenses to the CWP central office in Ellicott City, MD, as well as for payment of the intern's time. Through the advanced internship process, the grant recipient would receive capacity building support through participation in existing CWP technical projects and training related to the grant recipient's needs.

Awards will be considered for proposals with one or more of the following components:

1. Implementation of low cost urban stormwater Best Management Practices or other low cost means to reduce pollution in urban watersheds (e.g. IDDE, downspout disconnection, rain gardens, bioretention, rain barrels, incentive programs for businesses or homeowners)
2. Stormwater BMP demonstration projects in areas of the country or local jurisdictions where these are relatively lacking
3. Requests for technical, capacity-building support in the area of stormwater and watershed management

Examples of potential technical support include scoping a watershed plan, designing and constructing a bioretention facility, developing budgets for watershed implementation, estimating pollutant reduction and costs, training on specific field and desktop methods, applying stakeholder involvement methods to adopt and implement the plan and basic technical support on land use planning, best management practices and watershed restoration techniques.

Award Criteria

Proposals selected for mini-grant funding will:

- Provide clearly stated objectives;
- Clearly describe need for assistance; and
- Support stormwater or watershed management, directly or indirectly.

Eligibility

Any small not-for-profit watershed group within the United States may apply to this mini-grant program, provided they are not debarred or suspended or otherwise ineligible to participate in Federal assistance programs. Federal entities and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply. Activities that are not eligible under this grant program include: lobbying, and the acquisition of commercial goods and services. All awardees must abide by EPA regulations.

Application Guidelines

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Proposals should be 2-5 pages in length and contain the following information:

- Organization name, description, size, location, and contact information
- Areas of technical and/or organizational need
- Description of specific project and/or assistance being proposed
- Anticipated outputs and outcomes
- Detailed budget showing allocation of requested funds

Please send an electronic copy of proposal and any questions to the attention of Lisa Fraley-McNeal at lfm@cwp.org. For status updates to the Technical Capacity Mini-Grant program, please visit www.cwp.org.

If selected for further evaluation, grant recipients will need to complete a series of interview questions concerning their current capacity – time and commitment, past successes, etc. Brief quarterly updates to the Center for Watershed Protection will be required from all awardees. A more detailed final report will also be required at the conclusion of the grant period, documenting expenditures of grant funds and providing information on the outputs and outcomes of the grant (e.g. stream miles affected, watershed acreage protected or restored, and/or other measurable results of their efforts.) Grant period must conclude by September 30, 2009.

Center for Watershed Protection Mission:

The Center for Watershed Protection works to protect, restore, and enhance our streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and bays. We create viable solutions and partnerships for responsible land and water management so that every community has clean water and healthy natural resources to sustain diverse life.