



OWOW GRANT PROGRAMS

The Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) works to protect our freshwater, estuarine, coastal and ocean ecosystems, including watersheds and wetlands. We regulate and monitor ocean dumping and vessel discharges, and reduce aquatic trash and marine debris. We protect water quality and habitats in 28 estuaries around the nation. We control polluted runoff and restore impaired waters.

When developing a funding strategy to address stressors in your watershed, consider the overlapping funding priorities within OWOW and the Office of Water at EPA.

1. Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDG):

WPDGs provide eligible applicants an opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction and elimination of water pollution. WPDGs provide applicants an opportunity to develop and refine comprehensive state/tribal/local government wetland programs. These programs are meant to:

- Build the capacity of state/tribal/local governments to increase the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland condition.
- Use one or more of the following “Core Elements” in order to achieve this goal. **The core elements are 1. Monitoring and assessment 2. Regulatory approaches 3. Water Quality Standards 4. Voluntary restoration and protection**

Primary audience: States and Tribes

RFP: Spring

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants>

2. Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant:

The Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program was conceived by the EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds to identify and protect healthy, aquatic ecosystems and their

watersheds. Healthy watersheds are those in which the hydrological, biological, and land-based functions of the ecosystem are largely intact. The Program's goal is to conserve healthy aquatic ecosystems and the supporting natural and managed landscape and watershed processes, such as hydrology, that support them. Rather than waiting until a watershed is negatively impacted and attempting to restore it to health, the Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program seeks to protect and sustain healthy watersheds so that they will continue to provide ecological services such as clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreation, and protection from natural hazards.

For this grant, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities is the pass through entity which awards these sub-awards.

Primary audience: all

RFP: Early Spring

<https://www.epa.gov/hwp/healthy-watersheds-consortium-grant>

<http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html>

3. Urban Waters Small Grants:

Since the inception of the Urban Waters Small Grants Program in 2012, the program has awarded approximately \$6.6 million in grants to 114 organizations across the country and Puerto Rico. The grants are competed and awarded every two years, with individual award amounts of up to \$60,000.

Healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, social and employment opportunities in nearby communities. The Urban Waters Small Grants are expanding the ability of communities to engage in activities that improve water quality in a way that also advances community priorities.

Primary audience: all

RFP: Every 2 years, currently not open

<https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

4. Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program:

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program seeks to develop nation-wide-community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. Projects seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development. Funding priorities for this program include:

- On-the-ground wetland, riparian, in-stream and/or coastal habitat restoration
- Meaningful education and training activities, either through community outreach, participation and/or integration with K-12 environmental curriculum
- Measurable ecological, educational and community benefits

- Partnerships: Five Star projects should engage a diverse group of community partners to achieve ecological and educational outcomes.

For this grant, NFWF is the pass through entity which awards these sub-awards.

Primary audience: all

RFP: Winter, currently not open

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/5-star-wetland-and-urban-waters-restoration-grants>

<http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx>

5. Non-point Source/319 Grants:

The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) established the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program. Section 319 addresses the need for greater federal leadership to help focus state and local nonpoint source efforts. Under Section 319, states, territories and tribes receive grant money that supports a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects.

Eligible entities include States, Territories and qualified Indian Tribes and intertribal consortia who have approved nonpoint source assessment reports and management plans. To be qualified, Tribes must have treatment in a manner similar to a state (TAS) status for the 319 Program. Grants to States and Territories are awarded by formula. The allotment is awarded to the agency in each State or Territory designated by the chief executive as the lead nonpoint source agency. The lead nonpoint source agency may distribute grant funds to other organizations in accordance with its work program, which is approved by EPA. Eligible Tribes are allocated a base allotment by formula; the remaining Tribal portion of the 319(h) appropriation is competed among qualified Indian Tribes and intertribal consortia. Primary audience: States & Tribes

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/319-grant-program-states-and-territories>

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal-319-grant-program>

6. Water Finance Clearinghouse:

The Water Finance Clearinghouse is an easily navigable web-based portal to help communities locate information and resources that will assist them in making informed decisions for their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs. The Water Finance Clearinghouse includes two searchable databases: one contains available funding sources for water infrastructure and the second contains resources, such as reports, weblinks, webinars etc. on financing mechanisms and approaches that can help communities access capital to meet their water infrastructure needs.

The Water Finance Clearinghouse was developed by [EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Resiliency Center](#), an information and assistance center identifying water infrastructure financing approaches that help communities reach their public health and environmental goals.

Primary audience: all

<https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/water-finance-clearinghouse>