



NFWF Funding Opportunities for Agricultural Projects

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Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (CBSF) Overview

NFWF's CBSF is a **pooled funding mechanism** drawing resources from federal agencies, private companies, and other foundations that provides:

- **Competitive grants programs** that support on-the-ground efforts to advance the goals and outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, Chesapeake Bay TMDL, and NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Business Plan
- **Direct (e.g., non-competitive) grant support** for critical networking, information-sharing, and convening partners and functions that support CBSF priorities
- **Contracted technical assistance support** for prospective applicants and grantees to help them conceive of and develop competitive proposals and ensure impact and replicability of successful projects



How CBSF Supports Ag BMP Implementation

- **Landowner outreach and technical assistance** to plan, design, and implement priority agricultural best management practices
- **Gap-filler funding** to buy down landowner cost-share requirements, especially for priority BMPs and places
- **Novel partnerships and collaborative approaches** to advancing outreach, TA delivery, and ag BMP implementation
 - **Advancing corporate and supply chain partnerships** to drive additional financial leverage and market-based incentives for adoption
- **Supporting flexible programs and incentives structures** to address barriers to participating in traditional government cost-share and incentive programs



Priority Ag BMPs for CBSF

- **Riparian restoration practices** including riparian forest and grass buffers, livestock exclusion, and stream restoration
- **Soil health practices** including cover crops, tillage management, grazing management, and conservation crop rotations
- **Nutrient management practices** to advance towards enhanced nutrient management for improved agronomic, yield, and soil health outcomes
- **Barnyard practices** including animal waste storage, loafing lot management, and heavy use area protection (specifically in leveraging of traditional cost-share programs)



Guiding Principles for CBSF Ag BMP Assistance

- **“Complement, don’t compete”** with federal and state cost-share programs to help drive program participation and utilization of available resources
- **Only funding implementation of established/approved BMPs** to maximize contributions to WIP goals
- **Consistency with specifications for established/approved BMPs** even where operating beyond existing federal and state cost-share programs in order to ensure creditability
- **Ensuring tracking and reporting** of BMP implementation (through FieldDoc) consistent with WIP reporting processes and mechanisms
- **Support for novel approaches to tracking and verification**, but not a source for steady-state verification activities



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CBSF Funding and Programs for Ag BMP Implementation

Program	Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grants	Small Watershed Grants (SWG)	Chesapeake WILD Grants
Priority	WIP Implementation	Watershed Agreement Goals and Outcomes	Species and Habitat Conservation/Restoration
Award Range	\$500,000 – 2M	Up to \$1M	Up to \$750,000
FY2025 Funding Available (Est)	\$25M	\$30M	\$8M
Eligibility	NGO, Local Gov't, Higher Ed, State Agencies	NGO, Local Gov't	NGO, Local Gov't, Higher Ed, State Agencies
FY2025 Timeline	Aug. 2024: RFP Release Nov. 2024: Proposals Due Feb. 2025: Decisions	Jan. 2025: RFP Release Apr. 2025 : Proposals Due Aug. 2025: Decisions	Jan. 2025: RFP Release Apr. 2025 : Proposals Due Aug. 2025: Decisions

Ongoing/Emerging Topics for CBSF Ag BMP Implementation Support

- Leveraging learnings and experiences in collaborative partnerships to advance ag BMP implementation (e.g. INSR)
- Piloting novel approaches, partnerships, etc. to address short, medium, and long-term gaps in technical assistance capacity
- Identifying and resources needs and opportunities to assist ag practitioners to deliver climate-smart and carbon-minded agricultural programs, assistance, and measurement alongside nutrient and sediment load reduction
- Using improved prioritization and expanded stream monitoring to better drive local stream health outcomes

