



Budget and Finance Workgroup

October 2022 Featured Funding Program

Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge

Program Goals:

- Cultivate projects that conserve land at a greater scale
- Test promising ways to finance land protection
- And harness the creativity of the private sector and market based approaches

Timeline:

- **July:** Pre proposals due
- **August:** Pre proposal status update
- **September:** Full proposals due
- **December-January:** Funding recipients announced

Project Example:

- 2021 REPI Challenge and National Coastal Resilience Fund Project: Tyndall Air Force Base
 - The 2021 REPI Challenge project supports a multifaceted approach to improve the resilience of the base, including constructing up to 1,000 feet of living shorelines and up to 3,500 feet of submerged shoreline
 - These nature based coastal resilience solutions will also improve water quality and overall ecosystem health and provide new habitats for local endangered species such as the southeastern beach mouse.

Resources:

- REPI 101 Primer and REPI Resilience Primer: <https://repiprimers.org/>
- REPI Challenge Fact Sheet: <https://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/>
- REPI Resilience Fact Sheet: https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Resources/REPI_FactSheet_Resilience.pdf
- FY23 REPI Challenge Pre-Proposal Form https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/REPI_Challenge/2023%20REPI%20Challenge/2023-REPI-PreProposal_060122_FORM.pdf
- REPI Listserv: <http://confirmsubscription.com/h/d/33E9D72CAF1521B6>

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REPI Challenge Q&A

How many REPI sites are in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed?

- There are several and there is the Chesapeake Bay Partnership between the DoD, USDA, and DOI which would likely encompass a lot of the installations that would fall in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Joint Base Andrews, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Indiantown Gap, Fort Pickett, MCB Quantico, Atlantic Test Range, NAS Oceana, NAS Patuxent River, NSA Annapolis, NSA Norfolk Northwest Annex, NSF Dahlgren, NSF Indian Head, and NWS Yorktown.

How close do the projects have to be to the installation?

- They can be right outside of the installation. As long as the project activities aren't taking place on DoD land and within the installation's boundary, then it's eligible for REPI fundings. So, even if it's right next to and neighbors the installation, that project would be eligible for funding, they just can't take place within the fence line.

Are they entire properties or DOD facilities or portions? Is point or shapefile information of those sites available in the Chesapeake?

- Yes, REPI has an interactive map. It's a GIS tool that we use to show REPI projects locations across the country. <https://www.repi.mil/Resources/REPI-Interactive-Map/>

What is the range of funding for individual projects for design and implementation? (National Coastal Resilience and America the Beautiful)

- America the Beautiful design projects would likely fall under the planning grants. That award size was between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. The implementation grants were significantly larger as the award size ranged between \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000. I believe there are limitations on the National Coastal Resilience award size based on the category that they applied to. For the REPI challenge, there is no maximum or minimum award size for the different project categories, so if you were to apply to REPI challenge for a design grant or award, there wouldn't be a minimum or maximum award. The project would be just exclusively looked at through the project category, so you could apply for however much your design would be in REPI challenge, with no limitations. , I did not know NFWF's National Coastal Resilience Fund planning and design funding range off the top of my head. The average awards for projects involving Community Capacity Building and Planning, Site Assessment and Preliminary Design, and Final Design and Permitting tend to be in the range of \$100,000 to \$1,000,000.

Is the REPI Challenge different from America the Beautiful and National Coastal Resilience Fund?

- Yes, REPI Challenge is housed and hosted through the REPI program, whereas the NFWF programs are posted by NFWF - but REPI funnels dollars directly to NFWF for those projects. If you're torn between which program to apply to for REPI funding, I would strongly encourage to apply to REPI if the project 1) isn't coastal and 2) doesn't directly benefit species or support wildlife habitat (that's a key component for NFWF and NCRF). REPI Challenge doesn't stress that as heavily, so therefore even if there's a coastal project that doesn't benefit species, I'd recommend REPI challenge for that. But if there's a species component and it's coastal, your likelihood to go through the NCRF may be higher for that funding.

If someone got funding for a planning project and the following year wanted to get funding for a design project, do they have better chances of getting that additional funding or should they submit a proposal that covers it all at a higher amount?

- The projects that have previously received REPI funding usually have a fairly good chance of receiving funds the following years because they clearly have the project components down pat and know how to frame their proposal in a way that shows to the REPI office how they're coordinating

with the installation. That's one of the biggest pieces that the REPI Challenge proposals need to be successful. I'd say divvying it out in the project categories is strongly encouraged in the RPF because, similar to NFWF, REPI Challenge provides an opportunity for applicants to really leverage that pipeline approach and take advantage of that, so it would be encouraged to divide out based on the project categories there.

Can you talk about any DOD interest in watershed protection? Installation water supply, flood risk, etc.? Or would you say it is more aligning buffering priorities with our watershed protection priority areas?

- It could be both. Protecting installation water supply and reducing flood risk are high priorities for DoD. Several of the resilience projects were through REPI and the annual REPI proposal cycle is designed to address water supply concerns and use natural infrastructure solutions to reduce that flood risk. For your first point, absolutely. For aligning priorities with watershed protection priority areas, that's something that would be strongly considered in a REPI proposal. Through REPI Challenge, it's strongly encouraged that applicants are looking beyond their immediate project to see how the actions can benefit other ongoing initiatives and priority areas. That would commend play for partners to mention in their applications, particularly for REPI Challenge.

If we had a sense of where all your buffering priorities are for your installations across the Bay, we may be able to do an assessment where we can look at 'where do you want to go in terms of watershed protection' and how could we figure out how to better align that (Jeff Lerner, EPA)

- I completely agree and think that's an excellent idea. One of the first things I could think of to try and help with that would be to look to folks in the middle Chesapeake landscape. That's their primary goal, to coordinate actions through DoD and the other agencies partaking in that partnership across that broader landscape area. That's one example of how they're looking at a broader landscape level and trying to connect different project pieces together in support of the broader mission. So, turning to the middle Chesapeake central landscape is potentially a framework for doing something similar. I think it would be a great first step for combatting that broader goal.

Do you have any examples of how REPI projects have integrated forest buffer planting or conservation?

- That is a key component to REPI and there are other funding opportunities that REPI contributes to. For example, REPI contributes funds to the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, so there are several engagements that REPI participates in to support forest buffering and planting. The first installation example is taking place in for Wachuka, AZ. The installation has worked in close collaboration with Forest Service to execute some hazardous fuel reduction in the neighboring national forest.

One challenge we saw when putting forward a pre-proposal was trying to develop the spatial linkage between the base (the facility) and where the project occurs. Do we have a viable way to move forward in the partnership with any more options you presented today?

- Location is strongly looked at and considered with the proximity of the project to the installation; however, given the coastal location of those installations and how the connected shoreline leads down to installation areas, there's something to be said in the pre-proposal about how that upstream or downstream impacts a piece of the installation shoreline. That narrative would strongly speak to your project. A key recommendation we give is to have that conversation with the installation personnel to say, when you look at this project and the location, what's occurring in the neighboring areas? Is there anything directly linked to this and if not, what would be the closest thing? We like to see the direct impact to mission benefits but even in indirect cases where you can draw that case, I would still say that for REPI challenge that would be worth pursuing and trying to make those connections.

Can you get subtidal reef restoration funded through REPI? (We have justification that it diminishes wave energy from extreme storm events, but there's not much research on it so we have a big

research gap) Do you think if there was research, justification projects like that could potentially be funded through REPI?

- Yes. There's a massive undertaking at Tindall Air Force Base to recover from Hurricane Michael and that installation is leveraging multiple living shoreline type of designs into their project to increase the resilience of the shoreline. I want to say that submerged shoreline is a component they're incorporating there with the benefit of diminishing wave energy, so I would say yes and look at these project examples to see how they went about it. I know some of the folks helping with the design components, so I'd be happy to connect you to go over how they're using submerged shorelines for that project, which did receive REPI funding through the 2021 National Coastal Fund.

We talked about the transfer of real property – when that happens who is the owner and long-term steward of that property? Is it the state or local government or the private conservation entity?

- It's the partner entity and the reason why partners are that component to revenue project is because there must be an agreement between the installation and partner to execute this work. One of the components of that agreement is that a partner will maintain the land after it's acquired and that does fall on whoever the partner entity is with the installation. That is not a property that DoD ever acquires.

Do you have anything along the lines of a fact sheet to help people get refreshed on how to align with the timeline and participate?

- We have a resilience primer that walks through the specifics of submitting a project for that new resilience authority. I will say that doesn't cover REPI Challenge as in depth, so we have a separate REPI Challenge page on the website with fact sheets, project examples, and the REPI challenge priorities that would be helpful to reference in future applications. We have a REPI 101 primer that goes over the broader components of REPI projects and focuses on the annual submissions from military services.

Can any of these funding opportunities through REPI allow for climate vulnerability assessment of land use planning decisions? From a policy standpoint in terms of guidance on rezoning

- For annual REPI proposals, I'd say probably not, only because those annual proposal are extremely action oriented. They're requesting funding for pretty much exclusively implementation projects. However, there is planning that goes into that and that's usually falling on military services and partners to get their projects to be implementation ready for their annual REPI proposal. However, REPI Challenge National Coastal Resilience Fund, absolutely. That capacity building and planning stage which is the very first stage in the pipeline is something. Conducting a resilience assessment, looking at the vulnerabilities and existing zoning ordinances is something that funding would be allocated toward. I can't speak to the National Coastal Resilience Fund projects that are receiving funding for 2022, but there were some projects that came in specifically requesting funding for that type of climate assessment where there is an entity that will conduct using GIS data and other means to look at where can these natural infrastructure solution projects take place? How can we prioritize them for the installation? What are some potential barriers that we may come up with throughout the execution? So, I would say, look to REPI challenge and National Coastal Resilience Fund for that but that would fit under that first capacity building and planning category.