

Appendix F. Funding opportunities

Grant descriptions

A reliable funding source for BMP implementation varies from year to year. Contacting the local Soil Conservation District, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland Coastal Bays for upcoming request for proposals is recommended. Below lists a few of the grant funding agencies that may be able to fund proposed BMPs.

Program Name	Description
319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program	Administered by Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). Provides financial assistance for the implementation of nonpoint source best management practices and program enhancements as a means of controlling the loads of pollutants entering the State's waterways ¹ .
5 Star Grant Program	The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams. The program provides challenge grants, technical support and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects ² .
Bay Restoration Fund	<p>The BRF funds upgrades to wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) and onsite disposal systems (OSDS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>WWTP Fund:</i> Provides up to 100% in grant funding to upgrade wastewater treatment plants with enhanced nutrient removal technologies, that would allow sewage treatment plants to provide a highly advanced level of nutrient removal.<i>OSDS Fund:</i> Provides up to 100% in grant funding for upgrades of existing systems to best available technology for nitrogen removal or for the marginal cost of using best available technology instead of conventional technology. Priority given to failing OSDS in Critical Areas³.

¹ Maryland Department of the Environment. Grants and Other Financial Assistance Opportunities at MDE. Available at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/AboutMDE/grants/index.asp>. Accessed April 14, 2008.

² United States Environmental Protection Agency. 5 Star Restoration Program. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/wetlands/restore/5star/>. Accessed April 14, 2008.

³ Maryland Department of the Environment. Grants and Other Financial Assistance Opportunities at MDE. Available at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/AboutMDE/grants/index.asp>. Accessed April 14, 2008.

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Biological Nutrient Removal Cost Share Program	Provides grants to local municipalities and agencies for upgrading WWTPs with biological nitrification and/or denitrification facilities to achieve a goal of annual average effluent concentration of 8 mg/l total nitrogen ⁴ .
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	CREP pays farmers rental rates to plant streamside buffers, create wetlands and provide wildlife habitat on enrolled lands ⁵ .
Linked Deposit Program	Provides a source of low-interest financing for certain water quality and drinking water capital projects. Below market interest rates are passed on to borrowers by participating commercial lenders with investment agreements with MDE ⁶ .
Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS)	MACS provides farmers with grants to cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost to install BMPs on their farms to control soil erosion, manage nutrients, and safeguard water quality in streams, rivers, and the bays. Cover crops planted after the fall harvest to soak up unused fertilizers, streamside buffers of grasses and trees planted to protect waterways from agricultural runoff and sedimentation, and animal waste systems designed to help farmers collect and use manure resources are among 30 BMPs currently eligible for funding ⁷ .
Maryland Coastal Bays Program	Grants are made available to qualifying applicants to increase public awareness and public involvement in restoring and protecting Maryland's Coastal Bays and its tributaries. Approved project goals are set forth in the <i>Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan</i> for the Coastal Bays. They include improving water quality, restoring and improving fish and wildlife populations and habitat, improving navigation and recreation, and insuring sound development and planning for our community ⁸ .
Maryland Coastal Communities Initiative Grant	The Maryland Coastal Communities Initiative is an opportunity for counties and municipalities to work with the Department of Natural Resources and its partners to

⁴ Maryland Department of the Environment. Grants and Other Financial Assistance Opportunities at MDE. Available at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/AboutMDE/grants/index.asp>. Accessed April 14, 2008.

⁵ Maryland Department of Agriculture Office of Resource Conservation. The New Look of CREP. Brochure. MDA323 Rev 04.

⁶ Maryland Department of the Environment. Grants and Other Financial Assistance Opportunities at MDE. Available at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/AboutMDE/grants/index.asp>. Accessed April 14, 2008.

⁷ Maryland Department of Agriculture Office of Resource Conservation. Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program. Brochure. MDA210-03.

⁸ Maryland Coastal Bays Program. CBP Grant Awards. Available at <http://www.mdcoastalbays.org/>. Accessed April 14, 2008.

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plan for growth and economic development while taking into account the natural, coastal, and socio-cultural characteristics of the area. The Coastal Communities Initiative will provide financial and technical assistance to local governments to promote the incorporation of natural resource and/or coastal management (e.g. coastal hazards, public access, water-use activities) issues into local planning and permitting activities⁹.

Small Creek and Estuaries Water Quality Restoration Cost-Share Program

This program offers financial assistance to local governments for voluntary stream and creek restoration projects that provide water quality and habitat benefits¹⁰.

Stormwater Pollution Cost-Share Program

This program provides financial assistance for the implementation of stormwater management retrofit and conversion projects as a means of controlling the loads of nutrients and pollutants entering the State's waterways through the use of BMPs¹¹.

Wetlands Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection¹².

⁹ Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Coastal Program. Coastal Communities Initiative. Available at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/czm/>. Accessed April 14, 2008.

¹⁰ Maryland Department of the Environment. Grants and Other Financial Assistance Opportunities at MDE. Available at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/AboutMDE/grants/index.asp>. Accessed April 14, 2008.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. Wetlands Reserve Program. Available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Programs/WRP/>. Accessed April 14, 2008.