

Watershed Assistance Grant Program – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What is the typical award size?

A: Award amounts vary depending on project type, but most design grants range from **\$30,000 to \$150,000**.

Q: Is match funding required?

A: No cash match is required; however, applicants are strongly encouraged to demonstrate leveraged resources such as in-kind staff time, partner support, or other funds.

Q: What documentation is required?

A: Applicants must include:

- Letters of commitment from landowners, if applicable, where work will occur
- A scope of work with clear deliverables
- Budget details and contractor cost estimates (3 estimates required for contractual costs > \$10,000)

Q: Do I need to go through a bidding process?

A: No. For contractual costs over \$10,000 but under \$250,000, applicants are required to obtain three cost estimates from qualified contractors. A formal bidding process is not necessary.

Q: Can projects be on private property?

A: Yes, but they must have **demonstration value** for the wider community and contribute to broader watershed goals.

Q: Can WAGP fund grey infrastructure or impervious surfaces?

A: No. WAGP only funds green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

Q: What is the difference between a Watershed Assessment and a Watershed Action Plan?

- A **Watershed Assessment** identifies existing conditions, stressors, and restoration opportunities in a watershed.
- A **Watershed Action Plan** is a prioritized roadmap that moves a community from assessment to specific, concept-level designs of top priority projects.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Applications must be submitted through the Chesapeake Bay Trust's online grants portal by the deadline listed in the RFP.

Q: What is the review process?

A: Proposals are reviewed by a **Technical Review Committee (TRC)** of experts, who score based on environmental benefit, feasibility, partnerships, and cost-effectiveness. Awards are approved by the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Board of Trustees.

Q: When will awards be announced?

A: Typically, awards are announced in **March 2026**, following the fall application deadline.

Q: Can I apply for multiple projects?

A: Yes, but applicants should prioritize quality over quantity. Each project must be submitted as a separate application.