

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM

Capacity-building support for nonprofit and
local government partners in the
Chesapeake Bay watershed

A Program of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network



CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST
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The Merrill Family Foundation

At A Glance

The Capacity Building Initiative



PURPOSE

Supports nonprofit organizations, as well as local and Tribal governments, working at the intersection of natural resource protection and community well-being by strengthening organizational, institutional, or shared capacity across the Chesapeake Bay, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny River watersheds.



WHO SHOULD APPLY

- **Nonprofit organizations** aligned with Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goals and with at least one staff member
 - Track #1 applicants can have no more than 40 staff
- **Local governments and Tribal nations** aligned with Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Goals

Additional eligibility requirements and clarifications are described in the full RFP.



ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

Funding is available throughout:

- The Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Maryland Coastal Bays
- Maryland portion of Youghiogheny River watershed



WHAT THIS PROGRAM FUNDS

Example Capacity-Building Projects

- Strategic planning
- Leadership or board development
- Fundraising planning
- Technology, data, or operational systems
- Staff or leadership training
- Organizational integrations or mergers (e.g., feasibility, governance, systems alignment)

Example Movement-Building Projects

- Training or structured learning for nonprofits
- Shared technical assistance for multiple nonprofits
- Multi-organization leadership development



WHAT THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT FUND

- General operating support
- Stand-alone program delivery or implementation

See the full RFP for more details on eligible costs

FUNDING & TIMELINE

➔ **Available funding:** Approximately \$1.4 million

➔ **Typical requests:**

- Up to \$40,000 (nonprofits)
- Up to \$150,000 (local governments)

(Larger requests considered with justification)

➔ **Deadline: 5:00 PM ET | Wednesday, July 15, 2026.** It's recommended to submit a few days early, as technical assistance is not guaranteed on the deadline date.

HOW TO APPLY

<https://cbtrust.org/grants/capacity-building/>

QUESTIONS?

Contact Amber Cameron at acameron@cbtrust.org or (410) 974-2941 x124

This request for proposals was released on 4/27/2026.



CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM

Introduction and Program Overview

The Capacity Building Initiative is a program of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network (CBFN), a collaborative funder network that builds and mobilizes grant makers to listen, learn, and work together in developing strategies that support a healthy environment and thriving communities across the Chesapeake Bay region.

The Initiative includes an annual funding opportunity, the **Capacity Building Grant Program**, which supports nonprofit organizations and local governments working at the intersection of natural resource protection and community well-being across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Capacity building refers to work that strengthens how organizations function. When organizations are healthy, they are better equipped to sustain their missions and contribute meaningfully to Chesapeake Bay Agreement outcomes. The program encourages capacity-building work that strengthens the ability of environmental organizations to sustain and advance their missions.

Awards may strengthen an applicant's internal capacity or, for Movement Building and Local Government applicants, support efforts that extend knowledge, tools, or infrastructure beyond the applicant organization.

The Trust recognizes that applying for funding can be challenging, particularly for organizations with limited staff or resources. We are committed to making this application process as clear, accessible, and supportive as possible.

Organizations that are new applicants, small or emerging organizations, and groups experiencing capacity constraints or other barriers are encouraged to seek guidance during the application process. Trust staff are available to answer questions, clarify requirements, and discuss project ideas.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Trust staff at least **three weeks prior to the application deadline** to discuss their proposed project. Requests received within three weeks of the deadline may not allow sufficient time for project development support.

For assistance, please contact Program Officer **Amber Cameron** at acameron@cbtrust.org or **(410) 974-2941 ext. 124**.

Funding Partners and Program Administration

The Capacity Building Initiative is supported by members of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network, including the Agua Fund, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Prince Charitable Trusts, and The Campbell Foundation, with additional support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Program and the Philip Merrill Foundation.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust serves as a core funding partner and program administrator for this initiative, providing grantmaking infrastructure, financial management, and applicant support on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust) is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the bays, streams, rivers, forests, parks, and other natural resources of our local systems, from the Chesapeake to the Coastal Bays to the Youghiogheny River. The Trust, supported in large part by Maryland's Chesapeake Bay License Plate, and partnerships with other regional funders, engages and empowers diverse groups to take actions that enrich natural resources and local communities of the Chesapeake Bay region. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded over \$190 million in grants to municipalities, nonprofit organizations, schools, and public agencies throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

What We Mean by Capacity Building

In this program, capacity-building projects focus on strengthening the systems, structures, and practices that support an organization's effectiveness and continuity. This may include work related to adaptive, leadership, management, or technical capacity (see more about these core capacity categories in the Appendix).

Capacity-building projects do not provide general operating support or routine staff funding. However, grant funds may be used for staff time that is directly dedicated to carrying out the proposed capacity-building work.

Capacity Building Tracks

Funding is offered through three tracks. Applicants should select the track that best aligns with their primary role in the proposed work and who will most directly benefit from the capacity-building investment.

The table below summarizes eligibility and the intended focus of each Capacity Building track. See *Eligibility and Additional Information* section below for additional eligibility criteria.

Track	Eligible Applicants	Primary Role of Applicant	Primary Beneficiary of Capacity Building
Organizational Capacity Building	Nonprofit organizations	Strengthen the applicant's own internal systems and functioning	The applicant organization
Local Government Capacity Building	Local or Tribal Nations governments; nonprofit organizations building governmental capacity	Strengthen internal governmental capacity or provide capacity-building support to governments	Local or Tribal Nations governments
Movement Building	Nonprofit organizations	Provide capacity-building support to other nonprofit organizations	Multiple nonprofit organizations beyond the applicant

Organizational Capacity Building Track

The Organizational Capacity Building Track supports environmental nonprofit organizations working to strengthen their own internal capacity so they can operate more effectively, sustainably, and in service of environmental and community health outcomes across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Projects in this track address challenges that affect long-term organizational effectiveness. Example projects include board development/recruitment, strategic planning, developing a fundraising plan, developing a marketing and communications plan, and much more. The emphasis is on strengthening how the organization functions, rather than expanding stand-alone programs or services.

This track may also support the merger, exploration of a merger, or other integration such as shared back-office support, between two or more nonprofit organizations. Activities may include feasibility assessments, governance alignment, or systems integration, when these efforts are intended to strengthen long-term organizational health and effectiveness.

This track is intended for applicants whose primary beneficiary is the organization itself, even when the broader purpose is to improve outcomes for communities or the watershed.

Local Government Capacity Building Track

The Local Government Capacity Building Track supports projects designed to strengthen the capacity of local governments or Tribal Nations to advance environmental outcomes across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Example projects could include mapping and creating inventory of stormwater assets with a risk assessment, developing standard policies and procedures for water quality assessment and data collection, strategic planning related to responsiveness to changing environmental conditions, etc.

Eligible applicants include local governments and Tribal Nations, as well as nonprofit organizations whose proposed work is primarily intended to build governmental capacity. While projects may involve collaboration among multiple organizations or jurisdictions, the

central purpose of the work must be to strengthen the capacity of governments, rather than nonprofit organizations.

This track is intended for projects where local governments or Tribal Nations are the primary beneficiaries of the capacity-building effort.

Movement Building Track

The Movement Building Track supports nonprofit organizations whose proposed work is intentionally designed to build the capacity of other environmental nonprofit organizations, to support them in advancing work that supports the Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goals. Projects in this track position the applicant as a provider of capacity-building support, rather than a primary recipient.

Movement building proposals are distinct from organizational capacity-building projects in that the applicant's primary role is to strengthen the effectiveness of multiple nonprofit organizations, particularly smaller or lower-capacity organizations.

Projects in this track may include technical assistance, training, or other structured capacity-building activities that help multiple nonprofits work more effectively toward shared goals that align with the [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#). Movement building projects must be designed to benefit more than one external organization but do not support the formation or ongoing operation of formal networks or coalitions.

Eligibility and Additional Requirements

This section provides additional detail on eligibility requirements referenced in the At-a-Glance summary.

Eligible Project Locations

Eligible applicants must be organizations or governments whose proposed capacity-building work takes place within, or primarily serves communities within, the Chesapeake Bay watershed, encompassing Washington, D.C., and portions of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Within Maryland, applicants located in or primarily serving the Maryland Coastal Bays and the Youghiogheny River watershed are also eligible for this program.

Applicants are responsible for determining whether their organization and proposed work fall within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A publicly available watershed boundary map maintained by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is available for reference:

<https://gis-fws.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/chesapeake-bay-watershed-boundary>

Connection to Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Goals

All applicants must demonstrate that their work aligns with and supports one or more [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals](#). Alignment may be reflected directly in the organization's mission or strategic plan or indirectly through the work the organization undertakes and the outcomes it advances.

Nonprofit Organizations

All nonprofit applicants must employ at least one full-time staff member (35 or more hours per week) or have a dedicated volunteer contributing at least 35 hours per week, and must have an active Board of Directors.

Staff size limits apply when nonprofits apply under specific tracks:

- For the **Organizational Capacity-Building Track**, eligible nonprofits may have up to 40 staff. Organizations that roll up into a parent organization's IRS Form 990 must count total staff across the entire organization toward this limit.
- For the **Movement-Building Track**, there is no staff size limit.
- For the **Local Government Capacity-Building Track**, there is no staff size limit.

This program primarily supports the capacity of watershed-focused organizations. Organizations whose work focuses on other environmental issues, such as **climate** or **energy**, are eligible only when that work clearly supports one or more [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals](#).

Local Governments and Tribal Nations

Tribal Nations and local governments operating within eligible project locations and working toward outcomes aligned with the Chesapeake Bay Agreement Goals may apply under the Local Government Capacity Building Track.

Fiscal Sponsorship

The guidance below applies only to projects involving fiscal sponsorship. Applicants who are not fiscally sponsored may skip this section.

The Capacity Building Initiative recognizes that fiscal sponsorship can be an important structure for organizations building or strengthening their internal capacity. When fiscal sponsorship is used, the program is designed to ensure that grant funds primarily support the capacity-building needs of the sponsored organization.

To be awarded funds through this program, you will need either a **Unique Entity Identifier*** issued by [SAM.gov](#), or to apply in partnership with a **fiscal sponsor**. To learn more about the UEI, click on the icon:



This video was produced by [SAM.gov](#) and is provided to you as a resource only.



Applicant of Record

For fiscally sponsored projects, the fiscal sponsor must be the applicant of record in the Chesapeake Bay Trust online application system and will be the legal recipient of the award.

The sponsored organization should be clearly identified throughout the application as the primary beneficiary of the proposed capacity-building work. Narrative responses should be written from the perspective of the sponsored organization.

Use of Funds

For fiscally sponsored projects, at least 80% of the total award must directly support the sponsored organization's capacity-building work.

Fiscal sponsors may be reimbursed for allowable indirect costs, consistent with federal requirements. Any additional fiscal sponsorship or administrative fees beyond allowable indirect costs must be clearly disclosed in the budget narrative and may not exceed 5% of the total award.

Eligible Expenses

The following costs are not eligible in this grant program:

- ⊗ General operating support.
- ⊗ Applications by for-profit entities.
- ⊗ Organizations with outstanding final, progress, or status reports under other Trust grants.
- ⊗ Stand-alone program delivery or implementation.
- ⊗ Projects required by consent decrees or mandated local jurisdiction mitigation actions.

Technology subscriptions, software licenses, and other recurring technology costs may be eligible when they are clearly tied to capacity-building outcomes and include a plan for sustaining those costs beyond the grant period.

The majority of the funding available is federal funds. Federal funds may not be used for the following expenses:

- ⊗ Purchase of equipment, defined as an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property with a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit.
- ⊗ Food or beverages.
- ⊗ Direct fundraising, including grant writing.

The Trust and partners reserve the right to fund projects and budget items that advance their missions and meet specific funding priorities and criteria.

Funding Availability, Requests, and Project Period

Up to **\$1.4 million** is anticipated to be available for this funding round. Final funding amounts are contingent upon the availability of federal funds.

Funding requests typically do not exceed **\$40,000 for the Organizational and Movement Building Tracks** or **\$150,000 for the Local Government Track**. Requests above these levels may be considered with additional justification.

Funded projects must be completed within a 12-month project period. Extension requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Federal Compliance and Applicant Certifications

By submitting an application to this program, applicants acknowledge that:

- 1) They are compliant with federal employment and non-discrimination laws.
- 2) They have not been debarred, convicted, charged or had a civil judgment rendered against them for fraud or related offense by any government agency (federal, state or local) or been terminated for cause or default by any government agency (federal, state, or local).
- 3) In addition, all final products will be provided to the funding partners for use and distribution at the sole discretion of the funding partners.

Please note: This program is funded utilizing Federal funding. Your application budget must be prepared utilizing Federal requirements, including [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E Cost Principles](#) and applicable indirect cost rates (see 2 CFR 200.414). If you have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), it must be uploaded with the application. The Trust has prepared an **Indirect and Fringe Cost Policy and FAQ for Federal Funding** document to assist applicants: [Additional Applicant & Awardee Resources - Chesapeake Bay Trust](#). *Applicants are encouraged to contact the Trust if assistance is needed.*

Deadline

Applications are due on **July 15, 2026 at 5PM ET** via the Chesapeake Bay Trust Online System. Late applications will not be accepted, and the online funding opportunity will close automatically and promptly at 5 PM ET. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit at least a few days prior to the deadline given the potential for high website traffic on the due date. While support is available, technical assistance cannot be guaranteed on the deadline date.

Application Process and Assistance to Applicants

The Trust uses an online system for the application process and grant management. We are currently transitioning to a new grants management system to improve the applicant and grantee partner experience. As part of this transition, the online application portal for this funding opportunity will open after the release of this RFP. We anticipate the system will be live in June, with the application available for at least one month prior to the July 15 deadline at 5:00 PM ET.

In the meantime, applicants are encouraged to review this RFP closely and begin preparing responses to the **Narrative Questions** and Track 1 applicants may begin completing the **Capacity Assessment**, which are linked below the RFP on our website and may be completed in advance. A PDF mockup of the online application will be posted on the Trust's website shortly.

To apply when the system opens, visit <http://www.cbtrust.org/grants/capacity-building> and click "Get Started!"

The Trust has a mission to empower all people to participate in the restoration and protection of our region's natural resources through its award-making. As a result, the Trust strongly encourages applications directly from, or applicants that primarily engage, communities underrepresented in the environmental space. For more about the Trust's commitment to engage underrepresented groups, see our strategic plan at <http://www.cbtrust.org/strategicplan> and <https://cbtrust.org/diversity-inclusion/>.

Application Review, Award Decisions, and Grant Administration

Application Review and Award Notifications

Applications are reviewed by the Technical Review Committee (TRC), an external peer review body composed of subject-matter experts and funding partners. The TRC scores and ranks applications using the published evaluation criteria, meets to discuss their merits, and recommends a slate of proposals to the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Board of Trustees for final consideration.

To allow applicants to set expectations prior to investing time in application, the Trust provides historical application approval rates for the same or similar programs. The average approval rate from the last two rounds in this grant program is **54%**, including both fully and partially funded applications.

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in October 2026. Award decisions may result in a full award, partial award, conditional award (contingent on the submission of additional information), or declination.

Award Agreements, Payments, and Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will receive an award agreement outlining award conditions, reporting requirements, and due dates for status, progress, and final reports. The first payment will be issued following satisfaction of all phase one payment award contingencies, including submission of a signed award agreement.

The Trust will withhold ten percent (10%) of the total award amount until the final report has been submitted and approved.

Awardees are required to submit all required reports by the specified due dates. Failure to comply with reporting or grant administration requirements, including submission of status, progress, or final reports, may result in termination of the award agreement and repayment of funds already disbursed.

Financial Documentation and Closeout

Final reporting may include, but is not limited to, submission of:

- receipts for supplies,
- invoices for subcontractors or contractors, and
- timesheets documenting personnel time charged to the award.

Timesheets must include at a minimum:

- staff name,
- date(s) worked,
- hours worked per day, and
- coding clearly linking time worked to the award.

All financial documentation must be organized and labeled to correspond with the applicable budget line items reported as expended.

Organizations with outstanding final, progress, or status reports, or with pending refunds, may be declined. If funding is awarded, such organizations will be required to submit all outstanding items and resolve any pending refunds before receiving additional award funds.

Award Suspension and Termination

The Trust may suspend awards based on federal funding availability. In the event of a suspension, the Trust will provide clear reasons and the expected duration.

The Trust may terminate awards, in whole or in part, if grantees fail to comply with the terms and conditions of the award including statutory or regulatory requirements or if the award no longer accomplishes the program goals or aligns with funding entity priorities.

Are you ready to apply? Here is a list of the requirements

After reading this RFP carefully, you can start working on gathering the following requirements for your application.

Remember to contact us at the Chesapeake Bay Trust to discuss your ideas and receive assistance with your application process *at least three weeks before the deadline* to ensure a timely response. The Trust cannot guarantee assistance for our online system on the deadline date.



Remember!

The application deadline is
*Wednesday, July 15th, 2026, at
5:00 PM ET.*

General requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Your organization is tax-exempt.✓ You have a Unique Entity Identifier issued by SAM.gov, are in the process of getting one, or are applying in partnership with a fiscal sponsor.✓ Fill out the online application form when the system opens.✓ Complete and upload the Narrative Questions Document you can find on our website.✓ Track 1 applicants complete the Capacity Assessment and upload it to Supporting Documents✓ Your application budget is prepared utilizing Federal requirements, including 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E Cost Principles and applicable indirect cost rates (see 2 CFR 200.414).✓ For projects with contractual items budgeted: estimates from at least 3 consultants for each contractual item budgeted, or a commitment to securing at least 3 quotes if awarded.

Appendix

Additional Information on Eligible Project Types (the list below is not exhaustive):

Organization Capacity Category/Type Project	Example Projects:
Adaptive Capacities	
<p>The ability of your organization or local government to monitor, assess, and respond to internal and external changes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investigating and evaluating the potential for organization collaborations with the goal of developing a sustainable network or integrating / merging existing organizations as a preferred outcome ➤ Developing or refining a strategic plan, including a mission and theory of change ➤ Assessing organizational effectiveness. Example - Assessment (or audit) of organizational functions
Leadership Capacities	
<p>The ability of your organization’s leaders to inspire, prioritize, make decisions, provide direction, and innovate to achieve the organization’s mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing a stronger board or team ➤ Creating a succession plan or addressing staff or board leadership transitions ➤ Conducting community needs assessments to inform leadership direction ➤ Developing skills of organization leaders ➤ Training as part of a systematic planned effort
Management Capacities	
<p>An organization or local government is more likely to reach its goals if it is well managed. Management capacity is a nonprofit organization’s ability to ensure the effective and efficient use of organizational resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Management training ➤ Improving processes for internal communications, ➤ Developing efficient operation processes, ➤ Developing or enhancing management support systems; specifically, the quality of staff supervision
Technical Capacities	
<p>Addressing technical capacities can be a broad category but typically refers to performance of the organization or local government’s work: delivering programs and services. To do so, an organization needs solid finances with reliable and diverse revenue streams, staff with required skill sets, clear communications, and accountability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shared technical assistance models ➤ Fundraising plan development / developing diverse revenue sources ➤ Directors & Officers insurance (“D&O insurance”) ➤ Training and development for staff in necessary program skills ➤ Technology improvements or database assistance. Example – Hardware or software to support remote work

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accounting and budgeting improvements ➤ Marketing and communications planning ➤ Volunteer recruitment and retention
Movement Building	
<p>The ability of organizations and local governments working at the community level to connect, inform and collaborate to achieve lasting, transformative and systems change at a local, state, or regional level. This includes strong leadership and infrastructure that supports and enables an inclusive, just, and powerful environmental movement in the Chesapeake region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing and pilot testing trainings for regional non-profits that meet common capacity building needs (please see the Choose Clean Water and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's capacity assessment survey results here and T. Rowe Price's State of non-profits in Baltimore report). These reports summarize potential areas of common training needs. ➤ Facilitate leadership cohorts for sub-segments of the movement in need of community and support (e.g. underserved communities, new executive directors)

Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers will score proposals based on the following criteria, for a total of **100 possible points**.

Scoring Criteria	Description	Scoring
Completeness	Are all required application components (narrative questions, budget) included? Did the applicant respond to each narrative question? Do the responses provide sufficient information to understand the proposed work and evaluate it against the criteria?	Scale of 1-10
Alignment with Program Intent and Bay Agreement Goals	Does the proposed work clearly align with the Capacity Building Grant Program and remain distinct from general operating support or stand alone program delivery? Does the applicant demonstrate how strengthened organizational, institutional, or multi organization capacity will contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • healthier natural resources and/or community well being, and • one or more Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals? 	Scale of 1-15
Priority Points – Explicit Bay Agreement Alignment	Does the organization’s mission or strategic plan explicitly reference one or more Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals?	0 or 5
Demonstrated Need and Justification	<i>This criterion focuses on the applicant’s internal capacity needs, constraints, and priorities.</i> Is the capacity need clearly articulated and well justified as a current priority? Do the proposed activities strengthen long term organizational or institutional sustainability and effectiveness? Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental context, • community context, and • its current organizational capacity, constraints, and opportunities? 	Scale of 1-20

	<p><i>For Movement Building proposals:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is need articulated at a multi organization or system level? • Are benefits to participating organizations clear and credible? 	
<p>Strategic Value and Positioning within the Watershed Ecosystem</p>	<p><i>This criterion focuses on the applicant’s external role and positioning within the broader watershed ecosystem.</i></p> <p>Does the applicant demonstrate meaningful and differentiated value to watershed outcomes, given its role, context, and the broader ecosystem? Reviewers will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role clarity: Does the organization demonstrate an understanding of the contribution it makes to watershed outcomes, beyond the proposed project? • Ecosystem awareness: Does the applicant show awareness of other organizations working on similar or related challenges and an understanding of how its work fits among them? <p><i>Demonstrated awareness may be informal or experience-based and does not require comprehensive landscape analysis.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinct or additive value: Does the organization’s role address a genuine gap or constraint in the watershed ecosystem, and is that role distinct, complementary, or intentionally aligned—rather than duplicative—within the current landscape? • Watershed level relevance: Taken together, does the organization’s role and positioning suggest meaningful relevance to watershed outcomes, given: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the scale and nature of the problem, o the applicant’s approach and constituency, and o the presence of other organizations working in this space? • Strategic collaboration: Does the applicant demonstrate thoughtful decision making about when to work independently and when coordination, alignment, or shared approaches strengthen watershed outcomes? <p><i>For Movement Building proposals:</i> Reviewers will assess whether the applicant plays a credible and value adding role in strengthening other organizations or shared capacity in ways that clearly advance watershed outcomes.</p>	<p>Scale of 1-20</p>

Likelihood of Success and Continuity	<p>Are the proposed activities feasible and appropriate to the stated need and organizational context?</p> <p>Are the intended outcomes clearly defined and measurable within the grant period?</p> <p>Does the project demonstrate how the benefits of this work will continue beyond the grant period, as appropriate to the project's scope?</p> <p><i>In considering continuity, reviewers may assess:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether, if relevant to the proposed project, systems, documentation, shared practices, or organizational structures are in place or will be developed to support continuity if staff roles shift or change; and • whether, if the project includes costs that may continue beyond the grant period, there is a reasonable plan to support those costs. 	Scale of 1-20
Budget Justification and Cost Effectiveness	<p>Is the budget reasonable and aligned with activities?</p> <p>Are costs well explained and appropriate to capacity outcomes?</p> <p>Are ongoing costs acknowledged and reasonably planned for?</p>	Scale of 1-10
Total Possible Score		100