

FY27 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL AILEEN HUGHES AWARD



PARTNERSHIP



ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

Maryland – State wide

Chesapeake Bay Trust
108 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403 (410) 974 – 2941 •
www.cbtrust.org

KMB WEBSITE

<https://cbtrust.org/grants/keep-maryland-beautiful/>

CBT AWARD PORTAL

<https://cbtrust.org/login/>

QUESTIONS? ¿PREGUNTAS?

Contact Marylin Veiman Echeverría at
mveiman@cbtrust.org or (410) 974-2941 x130

This Request for Proposal was opened on September 3, 2026 at 4:00 pm

At a Glance



The Keep Maryland Beautiful program is a partnership between the Maryland Environmental Trust, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Agriculture and Chesapeake Bay Trust. This year's program offers funding through three tracks and one award:

- Track 1: Community Stewardship
- Track 2: Land Trust Assistance
- Track 3: Tree Planting on Agricultural Lands
- Aileen Hughes Award



This document provides guidance for the Aileen Hughes Award funded by the Maryland Environmental Trust. For more information about this year's program visit the grant page [Keep Maryland Beautiful](#)

BACKGROUND

The Aileen Hughes Grant is funded by The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) for up to \$5,000, and is awarded annually to an individual representing a Maryland land trust who demonstrated outstanding leadership in land conservation. Funding is awarded to a land trust, on behalf of an individual and their good work (not to the individual).

The grant honors the late Aileen Hughes, a true leader in the conservation movement. Aileen was a supporter of women's and civil rights, as well as the protection of our State's natural and cultural resources. Aileen was the President for many years of the American Chestnut Land Trust.

The Aileen Hughes Grant recognizes an individual who demonstrates outstanding leadership, partnership and/or innovation in a conservation project or organizational development. Since 2006, Maryland Environmental Trust has recognized 18 land trust leaders and awarded \$41,000 in funding to support local land trust programming. Past recipients of the Aileen Hughes Award are listed [here](#).

PURPOSE

To acknowledge leaders in Maryland land trust community and to encourage a high level of excellence, innovation and collaboration.



FUNDING AND TIMELINE

FUNDING AVAILABLE:

- Total funding pool: \$5,000
- Requests should be of \$5,000.

TIMELINE:

- Deadline to Apply: Applicants must submit applications in the [Chesapeake Bay Trust Awards Portal](#) by **4:00 PM EST on December 1, 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted, and the online funding opportunity will close automatically and promptly at 4 PM EST. 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. The Trust cannot guarantee the availability of technical assistance for our online system on the deadline date.



WHO SHOULD APPLY

Maryland land trusts (qualified organization under Natural Resources Article 3-2A-01(d) with a current Cooperative Agreement with MET (dated on or after November 2, 2020)



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Ready to apply?



The Trust uses the [Chesapeake Bay Trust Award application portal](#), an online system for the application process, and if awarded, this will be the system you use for project management. 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). In addition, all products, from application to final products will be provided to the funding partners for use and distribution at the sole discretion of the funding partners.

STEP 1. CREATE YOUR ONLINE APPLICATION ACCOUNT

- Click “Manage a Grant” on our website <https://cbtrust.org/grants/keep-maryland-beautiful/>
- Log in to the [Chesapeake Bay Trust Award application portal](#) using an existing account or create a New account.
- If you forgot your password use the “Forgot Password” feature.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- You will complete the application online. No email submissions are accepted.
- You may save your progress and return later.
- All supporting documents must be uploaded electronically in the application portal.

STEP 2. GATHER THE NOMINEE INFORMATION

- Name of nominee;
- Nominee’s organization;
- Nominee’s email address and phone number; and
- Nominator’s name, contact information, and relationship to nominee.

STEP 3. PREPARE YOUR NOMINATION NARRATIVE

Prepare and upload a Microsoft Word or PDF file that contains your narrative; the nomination shall explain how the proposed recipient meets the following criteria:

- Individual representing a Maryland local land trust (qualified organization under Natural Resources Article 3-2A-01(d))
- For the successful completion of a conservation project (project is not complete if the land trust still owes money on it);
- Projects should be within the last 2-3 years and may include land transactions, outreach and community education, fundraising, stewardship and/or legislative achievement;
- The individual and/or project should demonstrate some of the following: leadership; innovation; high level of performance and/or; forming and sustaining innovative partnership.

STEP 4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- An uploaded confirmation of [Good Standing with the State of Maryland](#) is required
- Photos are optional but encouraged

STEP 5. AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Agree to the specified terms and conditions for the program for which you are applying.

Submitted!

Now what?



HOW WILL YOUR PROPOSAL WILL BE REVIEWED?

The Aileen Hughes Grants Committee advises and makes recommendations on grant applications. The committee consists of Maryland Environmental Trust staff, Maryland Environmental Trust Board members and others as appointed.

The Aileen Hughes Committee funding recommendations are presented to Maryland Environmental Trust Board of Trustees. Maryland Environmental Trust Board of Trustees then vote on recommendations.

The funding partners reserve the right to fund awards that advance their missions and meet specific funding priorities and criteria.

HOW WILL YOU BE NOTIFIED OF YOUR AWARD?

The FY27 Aileen Hughes Award will be announced on **Keep Maryland Beautiful Day – March 20th 2027** stating the funding partnership's decision.

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