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FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN CURTIS BAY AND ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

New grant program launched to support local efforts for environmental and public health

The Chesapeake Bay Trust announces a new grant program to support environmental projects led by community-based groups in Curtis Bay and its surrounding communities. This opportunity is a result of the criminal enforcement case prosecuted by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General's Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit (ENCRU) against Curtis Bay Energy, LP, which established evidence of improper disposal of insufficiently incinerated special medical waste. As part of this action, funds were set aside for projects that provide tangible environmental or community benefits in areas affected by the incident. Nonprofit organizations; community, homeowners, and/or neighborhood associations; faith-based organizations; youth and civic groups and more can now apply for grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000, depending on the type and scale of the project.

The Curtis Bay and Surrounding Communities, Patapsco, and Back River Watersheds Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program will fund projects or activities in the impacted communities to protect or improve the environment and reduce risks to public health. There is approximately \$225,000 available for the Curtis Bay and Surrounding Communities in the first year, out of the \$750,000 that will be available to the program. Funding will be directed towards community-based projects in Curtis Bay, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Park, Hawkins Point, and other South Baltimore neighborhoods. The Chesapeake Bay Trust is serving to administer this funding using its established grant management processes and the "participatory" grant-making model in which the community is involved at every step of funding opportunity, from identifying types and sizes of projects to articulating project review criteria to selecting projects to be funded.

"We want to engage community members from the impacted region in every stage of this funding opportunity, from program design to final project completion," said Jana Davis, Ph.D., president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. "We are looking forward to empowering local groups to lead and own and create their own projects, and hopefully carry this work on well into the future."

Each application will be reviewed by a Technical Review Committee composed of individuals who represent the impacted communities, supported where necessary by experts in the fields in which projects are proposed. Projects selected will aim to improve, protect, or reduce risks to public health or the environment and to the extent feasible, address matters related to solid waste management and watershed pollution. Eligible projects include stormwater practices, community

greening projects, community clean-ups, engagement of community members to change behaviors that reduce litter, protection of open space, and environmental workforce development and jobs training programs. Projects that provide both environmental and public safety improvements, such as solar-powered street lighting or solar panel installations, will also be considered.

Requests will typically fall into one of the following project types:

- 1) Outreach, education, and engagement on environmental topics and natural resources in the community
- 2) Environmental action projects that improve the environment/natural resources in the community
- 3) Larger-Scale (>\$30,000) watershed/environmental restoration

Applications are due no later than **4 p.m. EST on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024.**

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Chesapeake Bay Trust to discuss their eligible project ideas prior to applying to submit the best proposals.

To learn more, register for the pre-application workshop, or review the request for proposals, visit <https://cbtrust.org/grants/healthy-environment-healthy-communities/> or contact Kathy Somoza at 410-974-2941, extension 120 or Delaney Samons at 410-974-2941, extension 131.

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About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization established by the Maryland General Assembly dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust's grantees engage hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust's non-compliance, non-mitigation work is supported by the sale of the Treasure the Chesapeake license plate; donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form; donations made by hunters, fishers, and boaters in the Maryland online natural resource licensing system; donations from individuals and corporations; and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades: On average, 90 cents of every dollar go to programs.