§319-led land conservation initiatives

Protection Learning Exchange
Session 10
July 14, 2022

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EPA HQ, NSMB

Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program

and

While §319(h) **CAN'T** be used for land purchase, it **CAN** be used for easements.
Healthy Watersheds Consortium (HWC) Grant Program

• EPA issued RFP in December 2014

• Program Objective: “Accelerate and expand the strategic protection of healthy freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds across the country...by supporting an array of projects that assess, identify, communicate the value, and demonstrate protection of these watersheds.”

  o Build a consortium of funders (25% match requirement)
  o Develop a community of learning (2 nat’l meetings w/subawardees)
  o Communicate successes of HWC projects
  o Report on HWC project environmental results
Watershed Programs

Branch

2015-2022 Cooperative agreement

$11M

Subrecipients matched funds with donor contributions 10:1

$111M

Matched funds with donor contributions $11M

$11M

$3.75M

$3.75M

$3.5M

Funding

*Grantee

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

Graphic created by: Sequoya Bua-lam (ORISE)
HWC Grant Application Process

• Each cycle, US Endowment held 2 info session webinars
  • Significant 1:1 engagement w/prospective applicants to answer Qs, etc.

• **Applications**: 8-pg form, 3-5 letters of support, ≤2 maps (optional)
  • Current state of ecosystem health and watershed function?
  • Threats/timely opportunity for watershed protection?
  • Long-term vision (25 years) for watershed?
  • Links to an existing watershed plan/assessment?
  • Will project increase/maintain resiliency to climate change?
  • Does your organization have experience w/similar projects?

• **Identify ‘limiting factors’ in watershed protection work**
Grants

* EPA provided input to the US Endowment during application reviews.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Proposals</th>
<th>Awards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>30</td>
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Grant Cycles: 4

Proposals received*: 367

Proposals funded: 56

Funds requested: $80M

Funds awarded: $11M

Average grant length: 2-3 years

Award range: $31K-$350K

Average award amount: $177,756

Table created by: Jared Hardner (Hardner & Gullison Associates, LLC)
Grantees

Projects Funded
2016-2019

Grantee Composition
(56 total)

1. Watershed Action Projects
2. Building Watershed Protection Capacity
3. Advancing the State of Practice

- Land trusts
- Large non-profits
- Watershed groups
- Networks
- State government agencies
- Small non-profits
- Water utilities
- Conservation Districts
- Local governments
- Tribes
- NEPs
- Private
- Conservation Corps

Map created by: Jeff Lerner (EPA); Other graphics created by: Sequoya Bua-lam (ORISE)
Results:

~ 1.1M acres
&
~ 5.2K stream miles
protected

Principally in the form of easements + enhanced regulatory protections

Table created by: Jared Hardner (Hardner & Gullison Associates, LLC)
Watershed Protection 101

Key Components of a Watershed

Watershed Approach

Clean Water Act Overview

Funding Matrix

Watershed Protection Strategies

Building Partnerships
Conserving Land
Stewarding Land
Community Outreach

Land trust features
Engaging communities through citizen monitoring

Partnering across boundaries to protect Lake Erie

Prioritizing land conservation to protect rivers and aquifers

Stewardship through adaptive land management

Communicating watershed protection messages
Thank you!