

Regional Wetland Program Development Grants

**U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency**

Region 9

Sarvy Mahdavi





AGENDA

June 17 & 18, 2025

- EPA's Wetland Program
- Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDG)
- Core Elements Framework (CEF)
- Wetlands Program Plans (WPP)
- WPDG Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Questions

EPA's Wetland Program

Goal = increase the quantity and quality of US wetlands:

1) Directly conserving and restoring wetlands

- Regulatory
- Technical Assistance

2) Developing the capacity of all levels of government to develop effective programs for wetland protection and management.

- Wetland Program Development Grants



Wetland Program Development Grants (July 2025)

- Bi-ennial regional competition
- Eligibility – states, territories, tribes, local governments, intertribal consortia, interstate agencies, and state universities
- This Award ~\$2.5M TOTAL
Each project ~\$100k - \$500k
- 25% nonfederal match requirement (unless PPG)
- Typical project length is 2-3 years.
- Next NOFO: July 2025



****Non-governmental organizations, non-profits, private consulting firms, private universities, are not eligible to apply for funding**



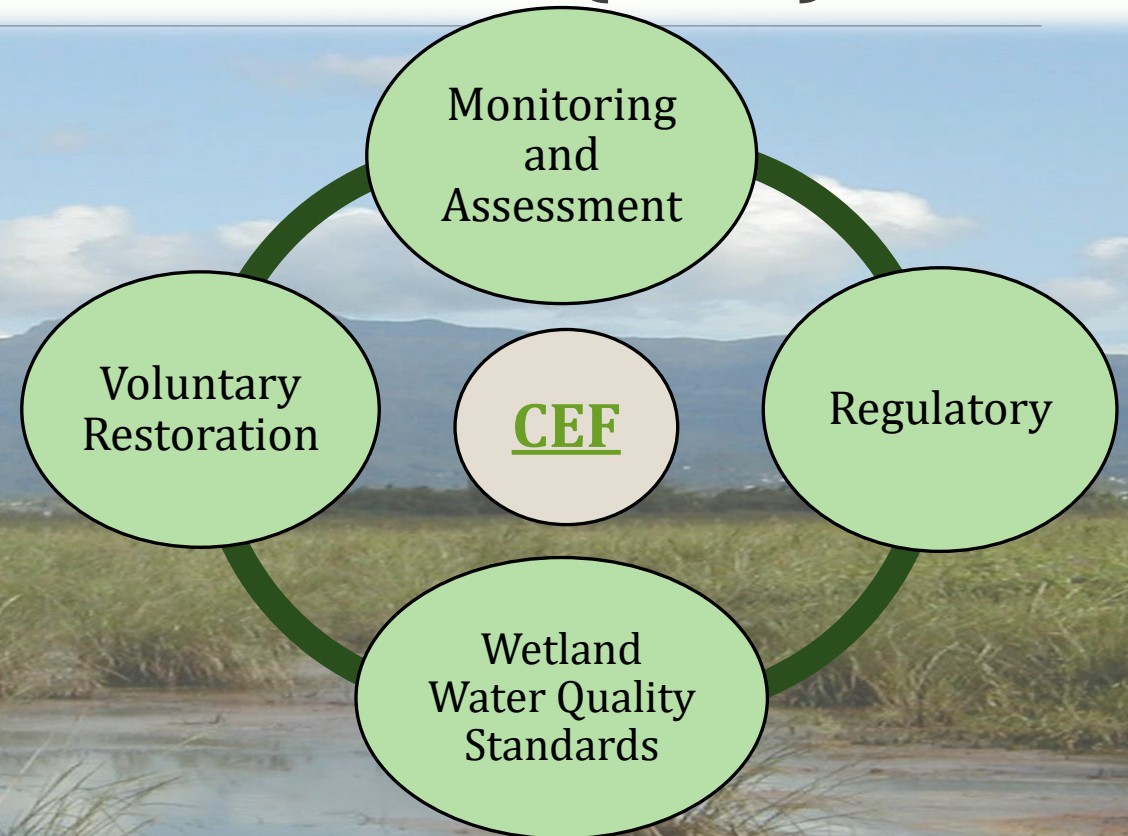
Wetland Program Development Grants

Develop the capacity of state/territory/tribal/local governments in conserving and restoring wetlands acreage and conditions.

- CWA § 104 (b)(3)
- Must reference at least 1 of the 4 Core Elements
- Optional: Develop a Wetland Workplan

The Core Elements Framework (CEF)

- Framework for States and Tribes to design their own wetland programs
- Provides clarification and prioritization of activities
- Describes a list of potential program building activities





Core Element Framework Examples:

- Better understanding of quantity and quality of wetland resources
 - (monitoring and assessment)
- Restore and preserve unique wetland resources
 - (monitoring and assessment, water quality standards, a robust regulatory program, and/or voluntary restoration)
- Reduce procedural complexity in administering the program
 - (regulatory core element)
- Better protection and management of wetland resources
 - (water quality standards for wetlands and a robust regulatory program)

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-02/EPA_Core_Elements_Framework_February_2023.pdf



Wetland Program Plans

- 3-6 year plans developed by a State, Territory, or Tribal Nation
- A way to strategically plan and explain actions toward developing a wetland program
- Consistent with Core Elements Framework, but not required to cover all 4 Core Elements
- Helps EPA prioritize and deliver technical/financial assistance
- [Link to EPA approved WPPs](#)





Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- I. Funding Opportunity Description
- II. Award Information
- III. Eligibility Information
- IV. Application and Submission Information
- V. Application Review Information
- VI. Award Administration Information
- VII. Agency Contacts
- VIII. Other Information

Federal Agency Name: US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Funding Opportunity Title Region IX Wetland Program Development Grants

Announcement Type: Request for Applications (RFA)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 66.461

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-REGIX-WPDG-21-22

Dates:

Application submission

All applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov as explained further in Section IV. Applications must be submitted by **July 6, 2021 at 8:59 P.M. PT (equivalent to 11:59 P.M. ET)**. Late applications will not be considered for funding.

[Click here for EPA Region 9 FY21/22 Request for Applications](#)



Project Eligibility

- Only program development or refinement activities are eligible. This includes demonstration projects but does not include implementation. Examples:

Mapping and Monitoring

Identification and
prioritization of management
areas

Wetland Program Plan
development/refinement

Development of
training/outreach
materials

- Implementation projects, or projects designed to carry out a task rather than transfer knowledge, are **not eligible** under this program, such as:

Wetland creation/
construction

Tasks required by a pending
permit (CWA 404, 402, 401)

Purchasing vehicles, land or
conservation easements

Restoration projects that
do not qualify as
demonstration



WPDG Tracks

EPA Region 9 distinguishes submission of applications for consideration in either Track 1 or Track 2 category:

Track One	Track Two
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Applicants: States, Territories, Tribal Nations▪ <u>Developing, updating, or refining a Wetland Program Plan (WPP)</u> and carrying out actions that develop or refine a wetland program described in the CEF▪ Carry out eligible actions from an existing Wetland Program Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Applicants: States, Territories, Tribal Nations, PLUS local governments, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia, state universities▪ Carry out actions/activities from the Core Element Framework▪ Applicants can reference one or more grant eligible action(s) from an EPA-approved State or Tribal Wetland Program Plan



NOFO Key Aspects:

- Identify deadlines
- Note page restrictions
- Identify allowable and non-allowable activities
- Look at the scoring criteria



Selection Criteria

The NOFO includes these criteria that will be used to evaluate and score applications by assigning a maximum of 100 points across the following criteria categories:

- **Project Need**
- **Regional Priority**
- **Project Tasks**
- **Milestones**
- **Budget**
- **Transfer of Results**
- **Environmental Results**
- **Programmatic Capability/Technical**
- **Experience/Qualifications**
- **Partnerships**
- **Past Performance**

Deciding to Apply?

Ask yourself these questions:

Have I read the NOFO completely and carefully? Do I understand it?

Is my organization eligible to apply, based on the eligibility criteria described in the RFA?

Does my organization have the technical expertise, personnel, and financial capacity to successfully implement the project goals and expectations?

Is my organization prepared to do what it takes to successfully implement the project within the budget we propose?

Do all stakeholders and leaders in my organization support applying for this grant?

Does my organization's mission align with the goals presented in the NOFO?

Tips for a Strong Application

Describe the knowledge, staffing, and fiscal capacity that your organization has in order to carry out the proposed project and meet the goals of the grant program;

Include a budget using a realistic plan that aligns to the proposed goals and objectives. Include a narrative that justifies the costs;

Be concise and precise in describing your proposed grant activities; adhere to page limit in the NOFO

Clearly showing how you plan to achieve the purpose of the grant program and, if possible, supporting info/data;

Include the need for the activity that the grant will support as well as your organization's track record in fulfilling such needs;



Create Account on Grants.gov

- You must have a registered account to use Grants.gov. Allow up to 1 month for account creation. Must have Unique Entity ID (formerly DUNS #) and SAM.gov registration.
- Look at the submission requirements (build in time for the submission, not just the application) of Grants.gov.
- Make sure that your designated person with a Grants.gov account will be available to submit the application on time (Authorized Organization Representative)



Registering with Grants.gov

One account to manage all your profiles, applications, and subscriptions.

Applicants

1. Complete the **required form fields**.
2. **Confirm** your email address.
3. **Add** an organization applicant profile or an individual applicant profile after registering.

Learn more on the [Applicant Registration page](#).

It's all about the aquatic resources

- The project narrative is one of the most important parts of your grant application!
- Tell your story, how does this project build your program and improve resources?
- Consider having a few people review your final draft.

REGION 9
Sarvy Mahdavi
Mahdavi.Sarvy@epa.gov

EPA HQ
Myra Price
Price.Myra@epa.gov



Confirm Submission



- Watch your email for submission confirmation and application tracking information
- Email your EPA Regional Grants Coordinator after you finalize submission of your application

Region 9

Sarvy Mahdavi

Mahdavi.Sarvy@epa.gov