

Chesapeake Bay Program Update

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Overview

- Introduction
- EPA Funding Opportunities
- Follow-up to 2023 LGAC letter
- Questions





Introduction

- Environmental Engineer
- Over 20 years at EPA
- Experience in Administrator's Office, Air Office and Water Office prior to joining R3, Chesapeake Bay Office
- Live in Bowie, MD with my husband and three kids

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EPA Chesapeake Bay Funding Opportunities

Historic funding for the Bay Watershed

- BIL and IRA have significantly increased available federal and state budgets.
- Historic level of federal grants being awarded by CBPO:
 - CBPO receiving \$238M over five years from BIL
 - More than \$110M in CBPO funding awarded through grants in FY 2023, including \$43M from BIL.
 - CBPO awards just under \$5M per year to jurisdictions for local government implementation projects

EPA CBPO Funds that Support Communities

CBPO funds to support communities may be available through:

- Jurisdictions:
 - Local Government
 - Most Effective Basins
 - CBIG
 - CBRAP
 - Water Quality monitoring grants
- NFWF:
 - Small Watershed Grants
 - INSR grants
- Chesapeake Bay Trust:
 - G3
 - SWG Capacity Building

Other EPA Region 3 Funding Opportunities for Communities

Examples of funds from EPA Region 3 your community may be eligible for include:

- State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- Nonpoint Source Grants
- OSG sewer and stormwater program assistance
- Pollution Control grants

What is EPA doing to address funding challenges?

- Developed a new subset of Small Watershed Grants program focused on building capacity of frontline organizations (\$13M over 4 years)
- EPA waived match requirements for infrastructure grants to help eliminate barriers to accessing funds
- CBPO streamlined requirements for Most Effective Basin funds based on feedback from jurisdictions and expanded the funding that can be used for technical assistance to 25%
- CBPO awards just under \$5M per year to jurisdictions for local government implementation projects

Follow-up to 2023 Letter

- September 2023 LGAC letter to Executive Council highlighted the importance of regulatory sandboxes and increased support for local implementation
- EPA responded on behalf of the Management Board in March 2024
 - We agree, and have been at work in response
 - EPA reached out to every program listed in letter, and talked with several to learn more
- Recent Funding Examples
 - Approved funding project proposed by the governance goal team. Goal is to inform decision-makers at state and federal levels so they can more effectively target limited resources to local governments
 - Last month, the CB Trust announced over \$1.3 Million to support green infrastructure projects to improve communities in MD, PA, VA, WV, DE, and D.C.

Questions

