



# Chesapeake Bay Program Update

March 2026



**Chesapeake Bay Program**



- PSC Response to LGAC Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Notice of Funds Availability

# Revised *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

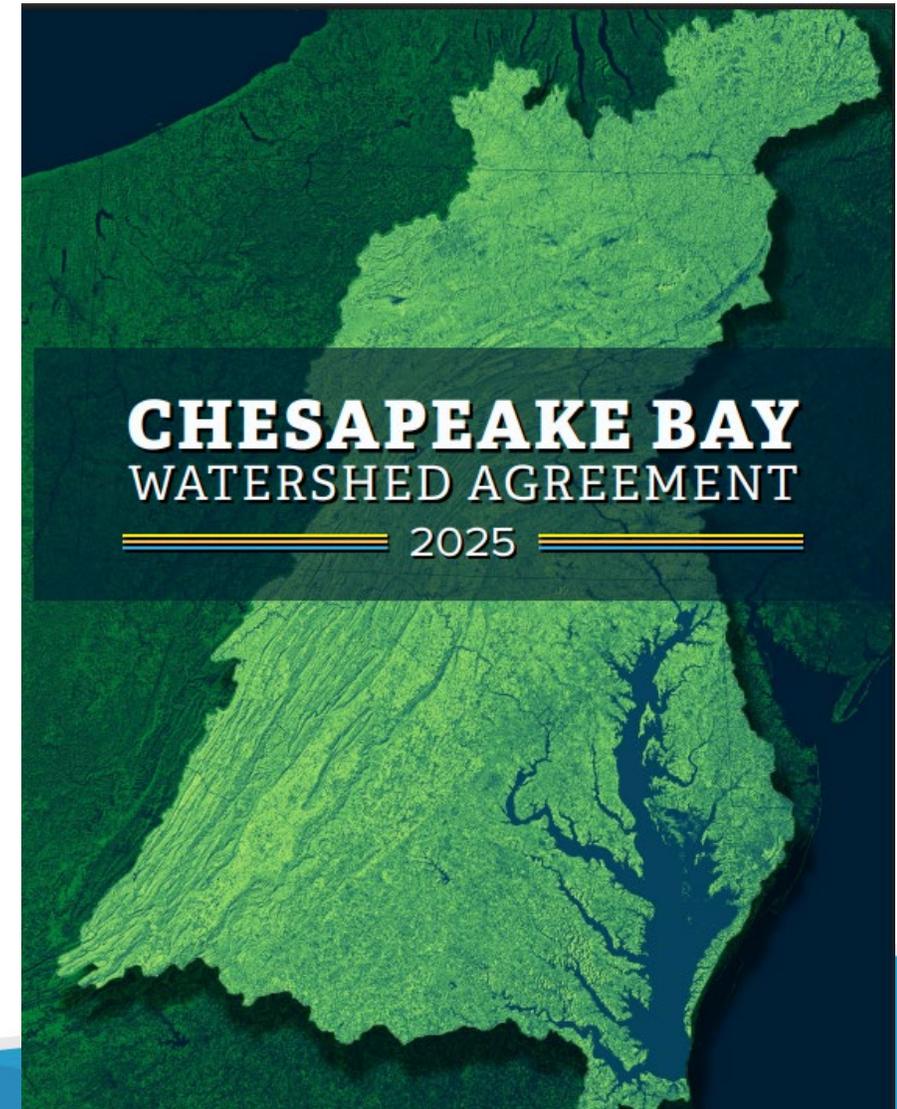
## Recommendation #1

As the Chesapeake Bay Program begins to implement the revised *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, two of LGAC's comments on the draft *Agreement* are worth reiterating:

- Begin the budgetary process by estimating the total cost to achieve the revised *Agreement's* goals and outcomes.
- Local governments need clarity on what is expected of them and when.

### Response:

- Management Strategies will describe where actions, tools, and financial support and technical assistance are needed to empower local governments and others
- Authority Appendix, Signatory Resources, Participating Partners
- Work plans will outline specific actions
- Local Government Implementation Fact Sheets for each jurisdiction





# Land Use and Conservation Recommendation #2

**The Chesapeake Bay Program should embrace conservation as an umbrella term...state and federal agencies can support local governments by**

- continuing to invest in publicly available land use data and tools,
- providing technical assistance to help local governments utilize land use data and tools, and
- incentivizing smart growth policies, like redevelopment, that support local economies.

## **Response:**

- Conservation in Vision and Preamble of Revised Watershed Agreement
- Meet with Geospatial Team and Land Use Workgroup
- Provide input on Land Use Work Plan

# Regulatory Barriers and Streamlining Solutions

## Recommendation #3

**Local, state and federal partners should streamline their processes, including permitting, to improve the effectiveness of watershed restoration investments without compromising environmental standards. LGAC suggests reviewing existing systems and processes to identify agency-specific opportunities to improve efficiency. Partners should ensure sufficient resources are dedicated to relevant agencies and build transparency and/or regular auditing into processes to maintain high environmental standards.**

### **Response:**

- The PSC considers streamlining in program implementation
- EPA streamlining grant guidance
- PSC welcomes input from LGAC and other advisory committees



# Next Steps

- PSC Meeting – April 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Non-Decisional
- Management Board – April 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Decisional – Finalize Management Strategies Template/Timeline
- PSC Meeting - June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Decisional – Tribal Charge, Finalize Governance & Structure
- EC Meeting – December 2026 in PA



# Notice of Funds Availability (NOFO)

- Notice logistical, coordination, and programmatic support for the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's four Advisory Committees issued March 10<sup>th</sup>. Proposals due April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- All NOFO-related questions must be directed to the [R3 CBPO Grants@epa.gov](mailto:R3_CBPO_Grants@epa.gov). To ensure no potential applicant receives a competitive advantage, answers will be posted publically.
- It is anticipated that one cooperative agreement will be awarded with funding up to \$2,450,000 for a 5-year project period, replacing 3 previous separate funding streams.
- This reduction in funding does not signal a decrease in the level of commitment to the ACs on behalf of the partnership. Rather CBPO has reallocated resources more equitably across ACs and lowered overall expenses by reducing in person meetings and minimizing personnel costs by centralizing coordination functions.
- Cost savings from AC coordination will be used to advance Administration priorities by maximizing funding directed to activities that will result in the greatest impact on Bay restoration.

Notice of Funding Opportunity  
Applications Due: Friday, April 24, 2026



Region 3, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Advisory Committee Coordination  
Support for the Chesapeake Bay  
Program Partnership

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R3-CBP-26-01





# Questions?

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