

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**Funding Opportunity Title:** Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Funding Program

**Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement

**Submittal Date:** Proposals must be received by **March 31, 2010**

**Contact Information:** DEP Central Office  
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Bureau of Watershed Management  
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**Funding Opportunity Description:** Funds for the Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Funding Program (SPFP) are available to county conservation districts within the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The breakdown of the total funding available will be determined by region: 56% of the total allocation will be reserved for districts in the DEP Southcentral Region, 34% of the total allocation to Northcentral Region and 10% of the total allocation to Northeast Region. It is anticipated that approximately \$1,000,000 will be available for SPFP for 2010.

**Funding Priorities Information:** SPFP applications must clearly state how the project meets the goals of both the DEP Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy (Strategy) and the conservation district's County Implementation Plan (CIP). All projects and best management practices (BMPs) will be considered. Priority will be given to projects in agriculture-impaired or DEP priority watersheds as well as priority watersheds identified in federal Farm Bill, federal 319, and Growing Greener programs. Priority will be given to projects that focus on:

- Non-structural BMPs that provide cost-effective solutions for the reduction of nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay. These include no-till/conservation tillage, cover crops, and conservation and nutrient management planning activities.
- Riparian corridor protection/restoration improvements (streamside practices, fencing, and riparian buffers), that provide cost-effective solutions for the reduction of nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay

As the Department continues to focus limited resources toward restoring impaired waters, it is becoming increasingly important to coordinate with other funding sources such as federal Farm Bill, federal 319, and Growing Greener. You are encouraged to consider the priorities listed in these programs as you develop SPFP applications. You are also encouraged to submit projects that leverage the \$11 million available through USDA's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative. Acceptable proposals could include funding for either technical service providers or district staff positions to complete the

necessary planning, design, and implementation work that will be required to utilize this newly available funding source.

In addition to SPFP projects listed in the standard list of Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy BMPs, districts are encouraged to develop creative and innovative implementation concepts to meet the specific needs of regions and individual counties. Regional priorities for these grants are appropriate. Additionally, due to the unique needs of each region, special projects do not need to be limited to agricultural operations. For all SPFPs, the result in improved water quality through the reduction of nutrient and sediment loads must be demonstrated.

Attached to this announcement are a set of guidelines for the funding of no-till, cover crops, and exterior (perimeter) fencing. These funding limits are new for FY 2010/11 SPFP grant awards and were developed due to limited SPFP funds being available.

**Award Information:** This solicitation announces that funds may be available in state fiscal year 2010. The individual SPFP award amounts will be determined by the proposals received and available funds. Funding is anticipated to fund projects for up to 2 years in duration, but is dependent on funding made available to DEP.

There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards to all qualified projects. The exact amount of funds that may be awarded will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and DEP representatives. This notice does not oblige DEP to award funding to any specific project or to obligate any available funds. If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so at their own risk of not being reimbursed by DEP.

**Application and Submission Information:** Separate applications must be submitted for each Special Project. Electronic application packages are available at: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=554224&mode=2> and applicants are encouraged to submit the application electronically. This form can be printed out and submitted as a paper application as well. If the applicant has difficulty accessing the website or downloading the required forms, they should contact Dave Lewis (Contact information on Page 1)

Potential applicants are encouraged to consult with their appropriate DEP Regional Office and DEP Chesapeake Bay Field Representative (CBFR) to discuss project ideas in the context of the County Implementation Plan and Strategy goals and objectives.

**Application deadline is March 31, 2010.** Applicants must submit (2 copies) of each completed application package including the outputs/budget page to the appropriate Regional Office (address below).

DEP Southcentral Regional Office  
909 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200

Contact: Scott Williamson      [scwilliams@state.pa.us](mailto:scwilliams@state.pa.us)      (717) 705-4817

DEP Northcentral Regional Office  
Suite 101, 208 West Third Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Contact: Patricia Havens      [phavens@state.pa.us](mailto:phavens@state.pa.us)      (570) 327-3667

DEP Northeast Regional Office  
2 Public Square  
Wilkes Barre, PA 18711-0790

Contact: Peter Tarby      [ptarby@state.pa.us](mailto:ptarby@state.pa.us)      (570) 826-2102