

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funding Opportunity Title: Chesapeake Bay Program Technician / Engineer Funding

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Submittal Date: Full Proposals must be received by **March 31, 2012**

Contact Information:

DEP Central Office

Dave Lewis

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Funding Opportunity Description:

Technicians: Funds for Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Technicians are available to county conservation districts within the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Funds can be used to employ technical personnel, obtain technical services, or to acquire technical equipment and supplies for the purposes of implementing the program. The total cost of employment shall include salary and salary related expenses such as social security, workmen's compensation, health plans, and retirement. For technicians working part time or funded in part through other programs, the application should include only that portion of the technician's costs meeting the purposes of the CBP.

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 Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, PennVest, and Growing Greener. These technicians are encouraged to seek out additional funding opportunities, particularly projects that leverage the \$13.9 million available through USDA's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative. The Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), have increased focus on Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay efforts and compliance with existing regulatory requirements. This increased focus is a positive development, as it will lead to improved water quality in Pennsylvania's waterways and, potentially, to increased funds for our Chesapeake Bay efforts. This increased focus has prompted DEP to include additional criterion to Chesapeake Bay Technician contracts for fiscal year 2012-13. These three required outputs are:

1. DEP will require that all districts that receive funds for Chesapeake Bay Technician positions conduct a minimum of 100 agricultural outreach / educational site visits per funded Chesapeake Bay Technician this fiscal year. The purpose of these outreach / educational site visits will be to inform agricultural operations of their obligations under Chapter 102 (agricultural erosion and sediment control) and Chapter 91.36 (manure management planning).

2. DEP will require that all districts that receive funds for Chesapeake Bay Technician positions collect and submit data regarding non-point source best management practices (BMP) that were implemented without state or federal funding, sometimes described as “voluntary” BMPs. The Department will issue instructions on the type of BMPs to be reported, and the mechanism for providing this data, once it is developed. Pennsylvania is working with EPA on what BMP’s are acceptable and mechanisms for acquiring the data. DEP will provide these instructions when they are available. At that time, DEP will request that the district develop and submit a BMP data collection plan that outlines how the district will obtain the requested information.

Engineers: Funds for CBP Engineering Specialist and Engineering Assistant positions are available to county conservation districts within the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Funds can be used to employ engineering personnel or to acquire technical equipment and supplies for the purposes of implementing the program. The total cost of employment shall include salary and salary related expenses such as social security, workmen’s compensation, health plans, and retirement. For Engineering Specialists and Engineering Assistants working part time or funded in part through other programs, the application should include only that portion of the specialist/assistants costs meeting the purposes of the CBP.

Award Information:

Technicians: This solicitation announces that funds may be available in FY 2012/13 in award amounts to be determined by the applications and available funds. The maximum amount available for salary and salary related expenses for a full time technician for the 2012/13 FY will be \$56,000, of which up to \$7,000 may be used for expenses (travel, equipment, supplies, program administration). An additional \$1,000 will be added to the contract for travel related expenses with the required 100 agricultural outreach / educational site visits.

Engineers: This solicitation announces that funds may be available in the 2012/13 FY in award amounts to be determined by the applications and available funds. The maximum amount available for salary and salary related expenses will be \$75,000 for the Engineering Specialist and \$69,000 for the Engineering Assistant positions, of which up to \$5,000 may be used for expenses (travel, equipment, supplies, program administration).

Application and Submission Information:

Technicians: The *Chesapeake Bay Program Technician Application Form* can be completed and submitted electronically or printed out and submitted as a paper application. Electronic application packages are available at:

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=554224&mode=2>

If the applicant has difficulty accessing the website or downloading the required forms, they should contact Dave Lewis (Contact information on Page 1)

The objectives of the position should be developed by the district in conjunction with the appropriate DEP Chesapeake Bay Field Representative. The application should demonstrate how the technician position will fulfill the goals and objectives of the district’s County Implementation Plan and /or Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and address educational outreach site visits. The application may also include a reference to how the district will develop and implement the voluntary BMP data collection effort. Special attention should be

given to Section 6 of the application – Outputs To Be Tracked. These outputs should include outreach and data collection activities, as well, as Special Projects being contracted with the district and any other CBP projects the district will be performing. 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 Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, PennVest and Growing Greener.

Application forms are due by **March 31, 2012** and must be sent to Dave Lewis and the appropriate DEP Regional Office (address below). Applications will be processed by DEP staff in Harrisburg after review and approval from DEP Regional Office Staff.

Engineers: The *Chesapeake Bay Program Engineer Specialist /Assistance Form* can be completed and submitted electronically or printed out and completed as a paper application. Electronic application packages are available at:

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=554224&mode=2>

If the applicant has difficulty accessing the website or downloading the required forms, they should contact Dave Lewis (Contact information on Page 1)

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