

**US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**Grant Programs to Address Threats to Coral Reef Resources**

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**Targeted Watersheds Grant Program**

1. Overview/Summary
  - a. Agency contact information:  
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  - b. Description of Grant Program as it Relates to Coral Ecosystem Conservation  
The Targeted Watersheds Grant Program is a competitive grant program to encourage the protection and restoration of the country's water resources. The program supports environmental stewardship and action by providing needed funding to watershed organizations for on-the-ground restoration and protection efforts designed to achieve quick, measurable, environmental results. The goal of the Targeted Watersheds program is to build on the successes of existing partnerships and coalitions that have evaluated and assessed their watersheds, devised a technically sound watershed plan, and are ready to embark on steps to implement their plan. This program provides an opportunity take actions in the watershed geared towards the control of land-based sources of pollution affecting corals.
  - c. Eligibility
    - i. Who is/is not eligible?  
Nominations must be submitted by a Governor or Tribal Leader. States and tribes may prepare or solicit watershed proposals in a manner most appropriate to their state and nominate the most meritorious to EPA. Therefore, watershed organizations interested in pursuing a Targeted Watershed grant should contact their State or Tribe as soon as possible to ascertain its internal procedures. Governors and Tribal Leaders are limited to two watershed nominations within their jurisdiction.
    - ii. What projects are eligible?  
Projects must focus on multi-faceted plans for protecting and restoring water resources. For example, a number of the selected projects address agricultural pollution—specifically nutrient loading; some address urban and industrial runoff; some address streambank or wetland restoration for sediment control which benefits wildlife and endangered and/or threatened species; and some of the selected organizations have projects aimed at changing homeowner habits. Moreover, several projects will incorporate a more innovative, market-based approach to attaining water quality. These watershed

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---

organizations will also test possibilities such as pollutant trading and other innovative socio-economic strategies.

iii. How to determine eligibility?

Anyone (group or individual) that is not a commercial enterprise is eligible to receive a Targeted Watersheds Grant. Businesses and for-profit entities may be, and are strongly encouraged to be, active partners in the watershed effort.

iv. What is fundable/ what is not fundable?

EPA will consider any activity, apart from those listed below, that will result in the protection, preservation, and restoration of a watershed, that incorporates a watershed-based approach, and meets the prescribed criteria, e.g. is well developed and will produce measurable environmental outcomes. Activities proposed for funding are not necessarily expected to address the entire watershed, but are expected to have been developed based on a comprehensive assessment and plan for the watershed. As such, all activities must directly support the described watershed plan, and Targeted Watersheds Grant funds must be used in accordance with the plan. Examples of selected proposals and funded activities from 2003 and 2004 can be found on the web site at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/2003/proposals.html> and <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/2004/04proposals.html>, respectively.

EPA has chosen to declare certain activities ineligible for funding. These include any proposals to directly support activities required under the Clean Water Act. This entails funds for the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and Office of Water regulatory programs including Phase II Stormwater projects. Proposals implementing the non-regulatory component of TMDLs, e.g. the elements of a watershed plan that address non-point pollution, however, are eligible. The construction of buildings or other major structures, or the purchase of major equipment or machinery, also will not be funded under this Program. Proposals containing subgrant programs (also called pass-through grants) are allowed, but the subgrant portion must account for no more than 20% of the requested funding amount.

d. Grant Schedules/Cycles

2005 nominations were due to EPA no later than **May 19, 2005**. This means, however, that applicants must submit their materials to the State or Tribe earlier. Please contact your State's Governor's or Water Quality

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Office to ascertain when and where you should send your nomination materials.

e. Grants Management

i. What are the rules?

To be considered for a Targeted Watersheds grant, EPA requires that each nomination forwarded from a state or tribe contain a set of common elements. Each nomination package submitted to EPA must contain the following. *Please see the [Call for Nominations](#) for specified page limits and precise formatting requirements.*

1. A one-page **cover letter** signed by the Governor or Tribal Leader.
2. A **title page** containing the name of the watershed along with the 8-digit HUC code, identification of impaired waters, nominee contact information, and Internet web address.
3. A 150-word **abstract**.
4. A **10-page work plan** describing the watershed and watershed planning efforts, details of the proposed projects, expertise of those managing the projects, and outreach activities.
5. **Budget form** reflecting a detailed breakdown of cost by category for each project.
6. A 1-page description of **grants management** experience
7. Signed **letter(s) from active partners** indicating their commitment to implementing the watershed plan and specific proposed projects.
8. Signed **letter(s) from individuals or businesses** committing to provide all or some of the match and the amount or in-kind service they are committing to the project.
9. For inter-jurisdictional or joint nominations, signed **letter(s)** expressing the support of the other participating governmental entities.
10. Map(s)

ii. Accountability and auditable trail.

f. List - History (recent) of projects titles/abstracts that have been funded.

**2004 Watershed Project Proposals**

- [Nashua River, Massachusetts and New Hampshire](#)
- [Ipswich River, Massachusetts](#)
- [Passaic River, New Jersey](#)
- [Schuylkill River, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Cape Fear, North Carolina](#)
- [Sangamon River, Illinois](#)
- [Kalamazoo River, Michigan](#)

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- [Fourche Creek, Arkansas](#)
- [Upper Mississippi River, Iowa](#)
- [Bear River, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming](#)
- [Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada](#)
- [Siuslaw River, Oregon](#)
- [Dungeness River, Washington](#)
- [Kenai River, Alaska](#)

The proposals are available at:

[www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/2004/04proposals.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/2004/04proposals.html). The 2003 proposals are also available at the site.

- g. List – History (recent) of project titles/abstracts rejected and reasons why. Not available.
- h. Matching Fund Requirements.  
Yes, a minimum non-federal match of 25% of the total cost of the project is required. The match may be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Monies from other federal sources, unless specified by law, may not count toward the match.
- i. Specific Criteria on How Proposals are Scored  
In general, EPA is looking for projects that are ready-to-go and have a wide array of public support. Projects must focus on being able to show measurable environmental results in a relatively short time frame of 2-3 years and quantifying their particular environmental parameter during the course of the project. The criteria that will be used to evaluate the nominations include: Innovation (10 points); Tangible Solutions (30 points); Broad Support (10 points); Outreach Program (5 points); and Financial Integrity (5 points).

2. Supplemental Information

a. Grant Application or FFO

Grant application forms are not required at this stage of the process. Only those watersheds that are selected will need to submit the proper forms (e.g., Application for Federal Assistance, Standard Form 424 et al). Selected watersheds and watershed organizations will have 60 days following the announcement to submit all the necessary grant application forms.