

# Coastal Resources Management Program Coastal Zone Grants

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

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# Agenda

- Project Eligibility
- Activities Funded by Coastal Zone Grants
- Evaluation Criteria
- Act 47 / Environmental Health
- Program Focus Areas and Evaluation Metrics
- Extra Considerations
- Construction and Acquisition (Section 306A)
- Research Project Requirements
- Drone Project Requirements
- Geospatial/Environmental Data
- Eligible/Ineligible Costs and Match
- Subcontracts and Supplemental Forms
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Questions
- Important Dates



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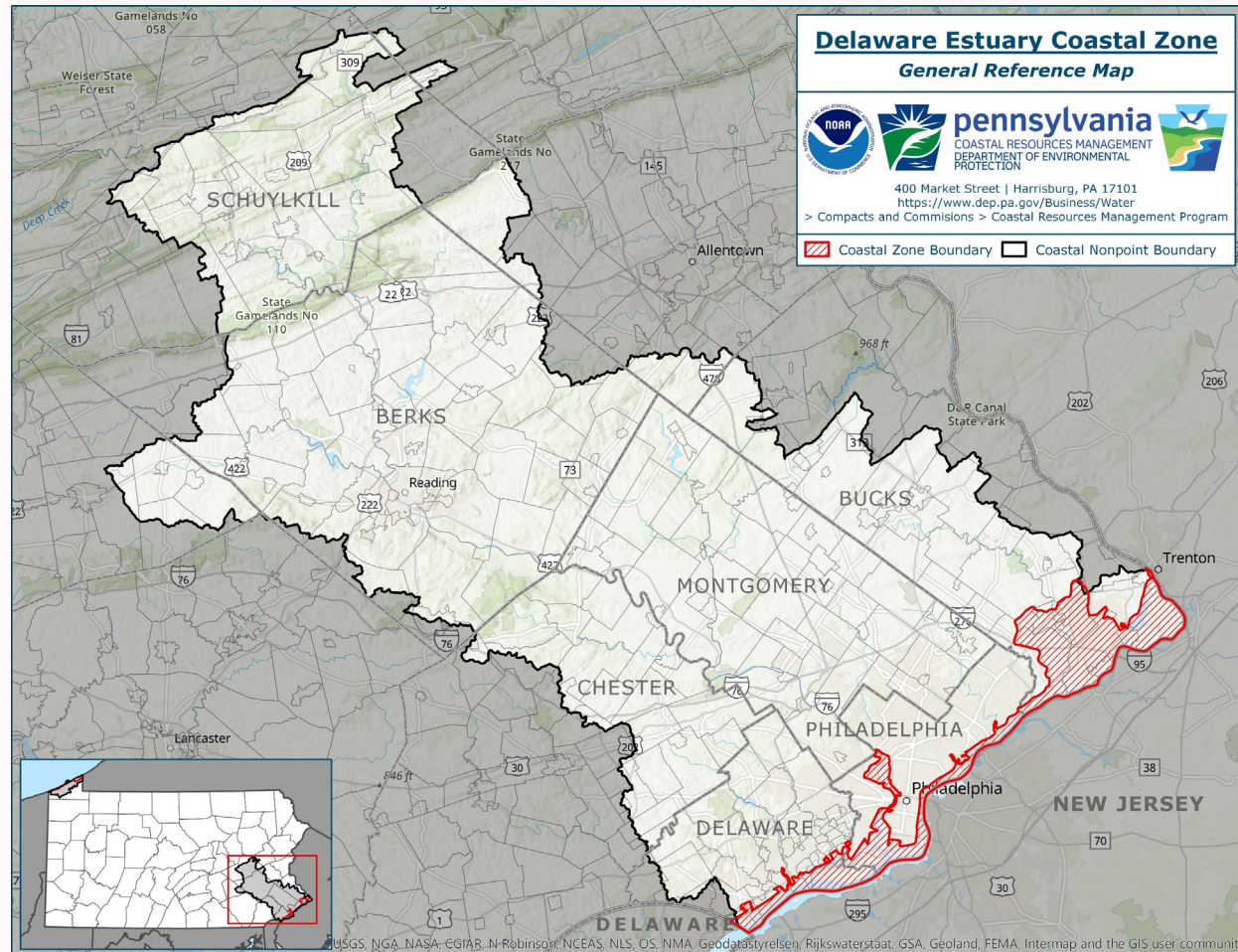
# Project Eligibility

- Who?
  - Local governments, area-wide and state agencies, conservation districts and authorities and incorporated non-profits. **All applicants must be registered on the PA Corporation website.**
  - PA Corporation website : [Search | An Official Pennsylvania Government Website \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov),
- Where?
  - All projects must be located within the Coastal Non-Point Pollution (CNPP) boundary
  - Projects associated with earth disturbance must be located within the 306A boundary



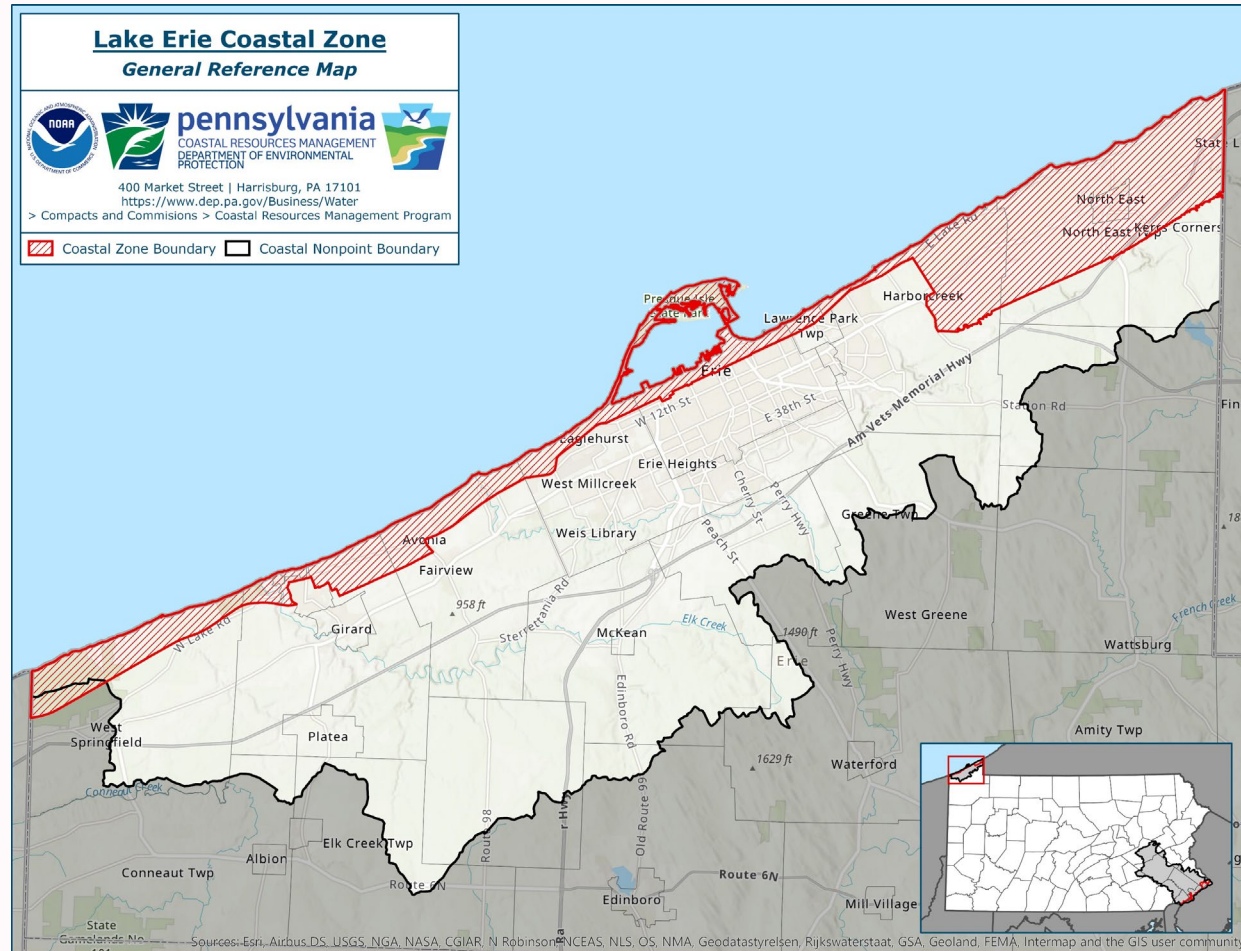
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# Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone





# Lake Erie Coastal Zone





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# Activities Funded by Grants

- Research
- Acquisition and easements
- Design
- Construction
- Education

NOTE: Project design and construction are not funded in the same grant cycle



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# Evaluation Criteria

- Objectives and Relevance to CRMP (80 points)
- Quality (15 points)
- Budget (20 points)
- Dissemination (15 points)
- Extra Considerations (-10 up to 25 points)



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# CRMP Focus Areas

- Coastal hazard areas (NOAA priority)
  - Flooding and bluffs
- Wetland protection, enhancement and creation
- Public access for recreation
- Intergovernmental coordination



# Section 312 Evaluation Metrics

- These metrics are used by NOAA to evaluate program progress in the following areas:
  - Shoreline public access
  - Nonpoint source pollution reduction
  - Coastal hazards



# Extra Considerations

- Public and Environmental Health Impact (5 points)
  - Preference will be given to applicants proposing projects that address public health and/or environmental health issues. Applicant must clearly explain how project benefits the community in order to receive points.
  - Applicants that meet criteria will be awarded up to 5 points



# Extra Considerations

- Act 47 Financially Distressed Communities
  - All applicants with this verified status will be awarded 10 points
- Act 167 Plan
  - Applicants with a DEP-approved Act 167 Plan will be awarded 5 points
- Floodplain Management
  - Applicants that meet criteria will be awarded 5 points



# Construction and Acquisition (306A)

- Eligible Entities:
  - Government (municipalities, counties and public authorities)
- Requirements:
  - Own or control the project site in 306(A) area
  - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- Earth Disturbance:
  - Conventional construction
  - Planting native species
  - Removal of invasive species



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# Research Projects

- Research applications must include:
  - Complete answers to all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) questions
  - Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) report showing threatened and endangered species in the search area of the project and all associated clearance letters



# Projects Using Drones

- Applications must include:
  - Federal Aviation Administration license of the drone operator
  - Unmanned vehicle registration
  - Location of deployment and operation
  - Flight plans
  - Information on access to deployment site
  - Timing of deployment
  - Invasive species Best Management Practices
  - Animal migration information



# Geospatial and Environmental Data

- Requirements:
  - Complete supplemental form in the eGrants application process
  - Datasets **MUST** be made available for free or low-cost to the public and in a timely manner within two years of the end of the grant



# Eligible Expenses

- Payable Expenses
  - Items directly related to the project, such as
    - Salaries/Wages/Fringe benefits
    - Travel
    - Purchase of materials and supplies
    - Purchase or use of equipment
    - Consultant/Contractor
- **NOTE: MUST HAVE RECEIPTS FOR ALL EXPENSES**



# Ineligible Expenses

- Examples:
  - Fund raising or lobbying
  - Hospitality including all food and beverages
  - Bidding and bonding
- Costs Incurred:
  - Prior to full execution of the grant agreement OR
  - After expiration date of the grant agreement



# Funding Request and Match

- \$75,000 maximum funding request
- 1:1 match MINIMUM
  - \$150,000 Total Project Cost = \$75,000 NOAA funds + \$75,000 cash and/or non-cash match
- Matching funds may be from
  - Local and State funds
  - Acceptable non-cash sources
- Federal funds cannot be used as match



# Non-Cash Match

- In-Kind Services
  - Based on rates used by state agencies
- Donated Services and Materials
  - Use customary billing rate
- Volunteer Services
  - Use independent sector website for rates
- Overhead
  - Must reflect federally approved rates



# Subcontract Requirements

- A subcontractor supplemental budget form is required for applicants planning to budget grant funds for a subcontractor. This budget is in addition to the overall project budget form.
- All subcontractors will be vetted for obligations to and violations in the Commonwealth



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# Supplemental Forms

- Available on the DEP eLibrary
  - Use the Word document, not the PDF
- Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI)
  - Submit search report and any associated clearance letters



# NEPA Questionnaire

- Who is performing project?
- What is the specific project window?
- What tools and equipment will be used?
- Where exactly is project located?
- What Best Management Practices are being used to ensure you are not spreading invasive species and/or are minimizing nonpoint source pollution?



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# Application Submission

- Grant application period usually opens mid to late August and closes mid to late October.
- All applications are submitted through the Office of Administration eGrants website:  
<https://grants.pa.gov/>
- Internet Explorer and Chrome are the preferred browsers for this application



# Project Selection

- Administrative and Technical Review
- Advisory Committees
  - Lake Erie Coastal Zone (LECZ)
  - Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone (DECZ)
- Evaluation criteria
- Funding recommendations made by DEP
- Final federal grant approval rests with NOAA



# Grant Process

- 18 or 24 month timeline TBD
  - Starts October of the following year after application
  - Must have an executed grant agreement
  - 18-24 month Period of Performance
- Invoices/ Request for payment forms
- Performance Reports – every six months
- Final Report – upon completion



# Important Dates

Date	Action
August 2026	Grant Application workshop webinars for LECZ and DECZ
Mid-late August 2026	Grant Application round opens
Mid-late October 2026	Grant round closes at <b>11:59PM</b>
November & December 2026	Presentations to Regional Advisory Committees



# Important Dates

Date	Action
January 2027	State Review Committee meets
May 2027	CRMP submits final recommendations to NOAA
September 2027	DEP press release announcing grant awards
October 1, 2027	Grants begin (MUST have executed grant agreement prior to starting work and should attend Post Award Workshop)



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# Get In Touch

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The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).