



2023 Clean Water Fund Information



Grants range from \$1,000 - \$25,000
\$80,000 available in total

Grant Description

The Lancaster Clean Water Fund serves as a catalyst for increased collaboration to efficiently achieve clean and clear water in Lancaster County by 2040. It provides a unique opportunity to work with landowners, leaders, and communities across the county on education, restoration, and protection projects to improve water quality. Across Lancaster County, clean water is a priority. With the majority of Lancaster County streams and much of our groundwater unhealthy, our community is a priority area for reducing specific pollutants (nutrient and sediment) by 2025 in accordance with [Lancaster's Countywide Action Plan \(CAP\)](#).





This grant is created and managed with the Lancaster Clean Water Partners to achieve clean and clear local waterways by 2040. We work with trusted experts in the field to make this grant possible, including Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Economic Development Company of Lancaster County, Lancaster Conservancy, Lancaster County Conservation District, Lancaster Farmland Trust, Local municipalities, and Penn State's Agriculture and Environment Center.

To view past project examples, go to this URL: <https://lancastercleanwaterpartners.com/clean-water-fund/>

Information Meeting

March 29, 2023 | 10 am – 11 am

Location: Zoom | Register at: [LancFound.org/grants](https://lancfound.org/grants)

Eligibility Summary

Eligible applying organizations must meet the following requirements:

- Serve Lancaster County* residents without discrimination.
- Current 501(c)(3)** designation from the IRS.
- Registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations unless otherwise exempt per the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act.
- Complete IRS Form 990 annually.
- Annual audit or a financial review by an independent CPA is within the last 12 months.
- In good standing with all existing awards and contracts with the Lancaster County Community Foundation.
- Provide organizational Non-Discrimination Policy meeting all federal requirements as it applies to your type of organization ([FAQs](#)).
- Be aware of the Community Foundation's [Anti-Hate policy](#).



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*The John J. Snyder Fund also serves Cumberland County, building must be owned by the CBO

**The Clean Water Fund also grants to municipalities

Application Process

1. Contact Megan Blackmon to get the access code to the application.
2. Use the code to access the application on the Community Foundation portal, found at Lancfound.org/grants.
3. Application drafts submitted by 06/23/23 are eligible for review and feedback before final submission.
4. Complete the full application by the final deadline 07/21/23

Grant Timeline

- Application opens 03/10/23
- Draft applications due for staff feedback (optional) 06/23/23
- Final applications due 07/21/23
- Award notifications (yes or no) 09/22/23
- Grant funding period 9/23/23 – 9/23/24
- Completion Report Due 10/31/24

Community Conservation Grant

Grants of \$1,000 - \$15,000

The Community Conservation Grant supports education, outreach, and regional engagement projects that improve Lancaster's water quality through collaboration and creativity. This grant does not fund implementation projects.

Grant Specifics

- Projects can range from educational campaigns to art installations to water quality monitoring equipment.
- Match is not required.



- Up to 8% of awarded funds can cover administrative costs.
- Use the [Collaborative Watershed Mapping Tool](#) when applicable to assist with answering application questions.
- Awarded funds will be released to grantees after signing a Grantee Partner Agreement. Grantees will be responsible for submitting one report at the end of the grant period which includes a financial report.

Application questions

- Project Summary - Summarize the purpose and how your project will provide education, outreach, and engage new audiences to improve Lancaster's water quality through collaboration and creativity.
- Property Information - Applicable only if your project will include activities and/or implementation on a site that is not owned by your organization.
- Describe why your project is needed and who it will impact.
- What are your organizational aspirations and current challenges regarding racial equity and inclusion, and/or social justice? Does this work relate to your project? If so, describe.
- Project Timeline
- What are potential barriers to this project's completion?
- List any partners you are collaborating with to implement this project directly. Describe how this partnership enhances the project or will contribute to its success.
- Budget Description
- Please describe any matching funds (not required) and provide documentation of commitment.
- What do you hope to gain or learn from this project? How will the community or organization be transformed? How will you know if you achieved your goals? Describe the qualitative and quantitative goals of this project.
- Required Attachments:



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- Landowner Commitment (only if activities and/or implementation will occur on a site that is not owned by your organization)
- Match Commitment Letter (if applicable)
- Board of Directors Roster
- Additional attachments can be included

Evaluation Criteria

- **Need.** Does the project contribute to Lancaster County's collective effort for clean water, creating habitat and/or encouraging outdoor exploration?
- **Equity and Inclusion.** Does the project include residents (especially those who have historically had unequal access to clean water) in the project planning and implementation? Do they include opportunities for expanding public education for residents about the project and water quality improvements?
- **Implementation Plan.** How effectively does the application outline a plan for project coordination, utilization of funding, strategies, and timeline?
- **Collaboration.** Does the application incorporate meaningful collaboration or partnerships with other organizations (such as municipalities or local watershed associations)?
- **Results.** Does the application articulate ways the organization will measure the effect of the program or solution at a broad community level, and are the outcomes meaningful and feasible?
- Please note that our team of local advisors score each application and then meet to discuss which applications to fund using the criteria listed above. While scores drive the decision-making process, the final decision is made by the advisors as a collaborative group.



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Small Implementation Grant

Grants of \$5,000 - \$25,00

The Clean Water Implementation Small Grant supports collaborative, watershed-scale restoration projects that encourages diverse audiences to improve Lancaster's water quality at a rapid pace.

Grant Specifics

- Projects can range from agricultural conservation and stormwater practices to riparian buffer plantings to removal of impervious surfaces.
- Match is not required.
- Up to 8% of awarded funds can cover administrative costs.
- If a buffer will be planted as part of the project, a maintenance plan is required. Funds are available for the establishment care of those buffers.
- Funds can be used for design and engineering.
- Use the [Collaborative Watershed Mapping Tool](#) when applicable to assist with answering application questions.
- Awarded funds will be released to grantees after signing a Grantee Partner Agreement. Grantees will be responsible for submitting one report at the end of the grant period which includes a financial report.

Application questions

- **Project Summary.** Summarize the purpose and design of your project. Explain what practices will be implemented and how your project will conserve and protect Lancaster's local waterways.
- **Property Information,** including maintenance plan.
- Describe why your project is needed and who it will impact.



- What are your organizational aspirations and current challenges regarding racial equity and inclusion, and/or social justice? Does this work relate to your project? If so, describe.
- Project Timeline
- What are potential barriers to this project's completion?
- List any partners you are collaborating with to implement this project directly. Describe how this partnership enhances the project or will contribute to its success.
- Budget Description
- Please describe any matching funds (not required) and provide documentation of commitment.
- What do you hope to gain or learn from this project? How will the community or organization be transformed? How will you know if you achieved your goals? Describe the qualitative and quantitative goals of this project.
- List the specific best management practices (BMPs) you will implement using these funds (such as the list below). Please include the official practice name and measurement, referring to the Quick Reference Guide for Best Management Practices when needed.
- Required Attachments:
 - Landowner Commitment
 - Match Commitment Letter (if applicable)
 - Before Photos
 - Project Map
 - Board of Directors Roster
 - Additional attachments can be included

Evaluation Criteria

- Need. Does the project contribute to Lancaster County's collective effort for clean water, creating habitat and/or encouraging outdoor exploration?



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- **Equity and Inclusion.** Does the project include residents (especially those not traditionally 'at the table') in the project planning and implementation? Do they include opportunities for expanding public education for residents about the project and water quality improvements?
- **Implementation Plan.** How effectively does the application outline a plan for project coordination, utilization of funding, strategies, and timeline?
- **Collaboration.** Does the application incorporate meaningful collaboration or partnerships with other organizations (such as municipalities or local watershed associations)?
- **Results.** Does the application articulate ways the organization will measure the effect of the program or solution at a broad community level, and are the outcomes meaningful and feasible?
- **Sustainability.** How likely is this project to be in place and functioning correctly for multiple years? Priority will be given to projects with demonstrated sustainability and maintenance of the BMP and current land use.
- **Maintenance.** Is the maintenance plan realistic and achievable? Note: A maintenance plan is needed for buffer plantings.
- Please note that our team of local advisors score each application and then meet to discuss which applications to fund using the criteria listed above. While scores drive the decision-making process, the final decision is made by the advisors as a collaborative group.



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Clean Water Partners Contact:

Questions about this grant opportunity should be directed to:

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