

Coral Reef Grants Workshop



Coral Reef Task Force Meeting
San Juan, Puerto Rico
October 31, 2009

Supplemental Environmental Projects

- Most federal actions against businesses or individuals for failure to comply with the environmental laws are resolved through settlement agreements.
- As part of a settlement, an alleged violator may voluntarily agree to undertake an environmentally beneficial project related to the violation in exchange for mitigation of the penalty to be paid.
- A Supplement Environmental Project (SEP) furthers EPA's goal of protecting and enhancing the public health and the environment. It does not include the activities a violator must take to return to compliance with the law.

Characteristics of SEPs

- There must be a relationship between the underlying violation and the human health or environmental benefits that will result from the SEP.
- A SEP must improve, protect, or reduce risks to public health or the environment.
- The SEP must be undertaken in settlement of an enforcement action as a project that the violator is not otherwise legally required to perform.

SEP Guidelines

- A project cannot be inconsistent with any provision of the underlying statute(s).
- A SEP must advance at least one of the objectives of the environmental statute that is the basis of the enforcement action.
- EPA must not play any role in managing or controlling funds used to perform a SEP.
- The type and scope of each project should be defined in the settlement document.

Example of SEPs

- PRASA Watershed Stewardship Program
 - Phase 1-\$825,500 to develop TMDLs/watershed management plans for all parameters of concern in the Loíza and La Plata watersheds above the reservoirs.
 - Phase 2 \$1,282,000 to validate the assumptions in Phase 1 and implement actions in the portions of the Loíza and La Plata watersheds above the reservoirs.

Example of SEPs

- Melaleuca stand/ Wal-Mart SEP
 - The SJBEP was awarded with \$98,000 for the removal of a 4 acres stand of Cayeput trees (*Melaleuca Quinquenervia*) in the borders of the Suarez Canal at the Carolina Municipality.
 - Their substitution with more than 500 native species frequently used in wetland restoration.

If you have an idea for the SEP Library

SEP Library

Attention: Beth Cavalier/Melissa Raack
Address: U.S. EPA
Multimedia Enforcement Division
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 2248A
Washington, D.C. 20004
Email: cavalier.beth@epa.gov or raack.melissa@epa.gov

Project Name or Title:	
Project Description:	
Contact Information	
Name:	
Organization:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

Targeted Watersheds Grants Program



- Designed to encourage successful community-based approaches and management techniques to protect and restore the nations waters.

Eligibility Criteria

- Nominations submitted by the Governor
- States/territories may prepare or solicit watershed proposals in a manner most appropriate to their state and nominate the most meritorious to EPA.
- Watershed organizations should contact their State as soon as possible to ascertain its internal procedures.
- Governors are limited to two watershed nominations within their jurisdiction.

Application Requirements

- EPA will consider any activity that will result in the protection, preservation, and restoration of a watershed, that incorporates a watershed-based approach, is well developed and will produce measurable environmental outcomes.

The criteria that will be used to evaluate the nominations include:

Innovation

Tangible Solutions

Broad Support

Outreach Program

Financial Integrity

http://www.epa.gov/region02/water/targeted_watershedgrants.html

Funding Amounts

- On 2008, EPA awarded up to \$3.7 million in grants to ten leading organizations. A 25% non-federal match is required.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

- Since 1995, 28 percent of all CWSRF loan agreements have been used to fund nonpoint source pollution control projects.
- Also states can use the SRF to implement Comprehensive Coastal Management Plans developed through EPA's National Estuary Program.

Eligibility Criteria

- Typical applicants have been municipalities and other public organizations. However, more than 15 states now accept loan applications from not-for-profit organizations or private entities.
- Oftentimes, not-for-profit organizations partner with other state agencies, government loan programs, municipalities or banks.
- Project needs to be included in the EQB's Intended Use Plan (ICP)
ICP ≠ CWNS

Application Requirements

- EPA must receive the state/territories proposals by June 30. Therefore, you should contact your state/territory representative to coordinate the appropriate process and timeline.
- EQB contact: Javier Verardi at 787-767-8181
- EPA contact Normando Colon at 787- 977-5847.

Environmental Education Grants

- The goal of the program is to support environmental education (EE) projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed and responsible decisions that affect environmental quality.

Eligibility Criteria

- Colleges and universities, local and tribal education agencies, state education or environmental agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and non-commercial educational broadcasting entities are eligible to apply for funds under the program.

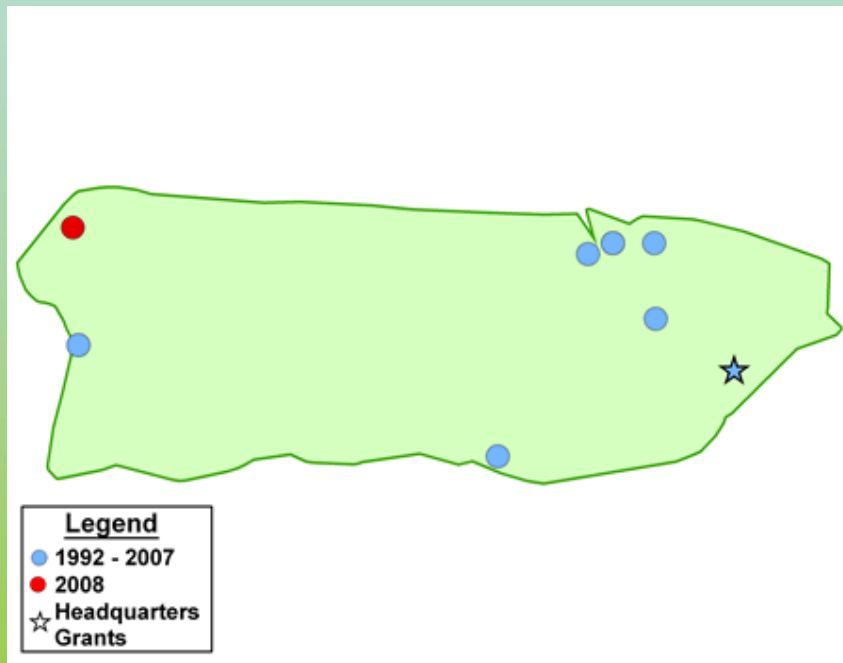
Application Requirements

- Factors considered in making final selections include:
 - .. cost-effectiveness
 - .. effectiveness of collaboration and partnerships
 - .. environmental or educational importance of the project
 - .. effectiveness of delivery methods
 - .. methods for evaluating and improving project
 - .. measurable results
 - .. geographic distribution of projects

Funding Amounts

- Since 1992, EPA has received between \$2 and \$3 million in grant funding per year and has awarded nearly 2,900 grants. Grantees are located in all 50 states and various U.S. territories.
- In 2008, a total of 111 grants were given for a total amount of \$3,354,158.

EE Grants Awarded in Puerto Rico



Year	Organization and Project Name
2008	<u>University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla</u> Caribbean Center for the Reduction of Aquatic Debris
2006	<u>Inter American University of Puerto Rico</u> Environmental Programming and Career Development for College Students
	<u>Universidad del Turabo, Ana G. Mendez University System</u> Saturday Environmental Academy
2004	<u>G Works Inc.</u> From My Area to the World and Back
2003	<u>Inter American University of Puerto Rico</u> Promoting Environmental Careers Through an Integrated Approach
2002	<u>Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico</u> Understanding the Wonders of Puerto Rico's Bioluminescent Bays and Lagoons

Example

- **University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla** **\$49,861**
- *Caribbean Center for the Reduction of Aquatic Debris*

The UPR- Aguadilla Caribbean Center for the Reduction of Aquatic Debris delivers workshops for university students, who then conduct workshops with teachers and students in kindergarten through grade 12 and the public on aquatic debris. The program educates both university students and the public on the ways they can be environmental stewards as they take action to change behaviors that affect local and global waters. The program also conducts four beach and four lake cleanups to involve students and the public in stewardship. In addition, students develop public service announcements that are offered to the media and enhance the marine debris Website. <http://vidamarinapr.org/>

Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants

- **This program supports the establishment of the State Nonpoint Source Management Program. The Nonpoint Source Management Program is intended to assist the States and Territories in their implementation of their broad array of authorities to address all of the water quality threats and impairments caused by nonpoint source pollution.**

Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Program

- **Water Quality Management Planning Grants are awarded to States to support water quality management planning activities.**
- **Priority is given to watershed restoration planning. The grants are authorized by Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act and are generally awarded to state water quality agencies as continuing environmental program agreements.**

Clean Water Act Section 106 Water Pollution Control Program

- This program supports the establishment of the State Water Quality Program to control surface water pollution.
- Elements of the Water Quality Program include the development of Water Quality Standards; issuance of Water Quality Certificates or where delegated the issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits; enforcement; development of the bi-annual Water Quality Integrated Report (CWA 305(b) Report and CWA 303(d) list); development and establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL).

Eligibility Criteria

- Funds under this program are available to State and Tribal Agencies.
- Non-Government Organizations are encouraged to contact the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board or the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Environmental Protection to confirm opportunities (contracts or grants) for non-government organizations in any given Fiscal Year.

Contacts

- **EPA: Yasmin Laguer, PPG Project Officer (787) 977-5848**
- **PR EQB: Wanda García, Water Quality Area Director (787) 767-8181**

Clean Water Act Section 104(b)(3) Water Quality Cooperative Agreements Program

- The grants are used to develop, implement, and demonstrate innovative approaches relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

Eligibility Criteria

- Assistance under this program is generally available to States, territories, Indian Tribes, and possessions of the U.S. (including the District of Columbia); public and private universities and colleges; hospitals; laboratories; and other public or private nonprofit institutions and individuals.

Application Requirements

- Applicants may be requested to demonstrate they have appropriate background, academic training, experience in the field, and necessary equipment to carry out projects.
- There is no match requirement.

- The funds will support research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstration, surveys, and studies relating to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)

- is a competitive grant program that offers an innovative way for a community to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in its local environment. Through CARE, a community creates a partnership that implements solutions to reduce releases of toxic pollutants and minimize people's exposure to them.

Eligibility Criteria

- There are two levels of cooperative agreements. With a Level I Agreement (about \$90,000) communities organize and create a collaborative partnership to reduce toxics in their local environment. These partnerships work on steps 1 and 2 in the CARE process and, if possible, they begin step 3. With a Level II Agreement (about \$275,000), the community already has a collaborative partnership and focuses on steps 3 and 4 of the CARE process.

Application Requirements

- Click on the highlighted funding opportunities below to view the announcement on screen (HTML). Click on the following website for grant application forms and instructions -- http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/how_to_apply.htm#1

Example

- **Coral Bay Watershed Management
St. John, Virgin Islands**

The Coral Bay Watershed Management is a recipient of the Level II CARE cooperative agreement. The Coral Bay Community Council, Inc. (CBCCC), the lead organization for this project, is actively involved in community planning and serves as an environmental watch dog.

Wetlands Program Development Grants

- priority is given to funding projects that address the three priority areas identified by EPA:
 - Developing a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program;
 - improving the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation; and
 - refining the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources.

Eligibility Criteria

- States, local governments, interstate agencies, and Universities that are agencies of State government are eligible to apply.
- Implementation projects are not eligible for funding under this announcement.

Application Requirements

- Non-federal matching funds of at least 25% of the total project cost (total federal share and match) of the project are required.
- Final funding decisions will be made based on:
 - 1) geographic distribution of funds, 2) diversity of projects (this includes type of project and type of applicant i.e. state/tribe/or local government) and, 3) availability of funds.

Example

- **University of Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology**
- Under this grant, which was awarded pursuant to a competitive process under the Wetlands Grants Program, we are providing \$86,354 and the University is providing \$28,792 for the assessment, mapping, and monitoring the health. of coral reefs.

Five Star Restoration Program

- The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams.

- The program provides challenge grants, technical support and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects.

Eligibility Criteria

- Grassroots organizations
- Community Groups

Application Requirements

- Five Star Restoration Grant applications can be downloaded from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation site at:
<http://nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.htm>

Funding Amounts

- EPA's funding levels are modest, averaging about \$10,000 per project. However, when combined with the contributions of partners, projects that make a meaningful contribution to communities become possible.

Example – Florida

- **Project Title:** Deadman's Island Restoration Project
- **Recipient:** The City of Gulf Breeze
- **Project Area:** City of Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, Florida
- **Foundation Federal Funds:** \$30,000
- **Matching Funds:** \$30,000

The Conasauga River Alliance will restore the heavily silted Colvard Spring by using a vacuum pump sediment bag system. The project will use a 3"-inch hose vacuum to remove sediment and pump into filter bags on-shore which are then spread on nearby fields. Cleaning the stream will improve vital habitat for the Georgia-listed Coldwater darter.

Thank you

Evelyn Huertas

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For more information:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/grants.htm>

