



2021 Multistate Conservation Grant Program Announcement

****Submission Deadline: 5:00pm Eastern Time on June 12th, 2020 ****

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is Soliciting Initial Proposals for the 2021 Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP)

Before applying for the Multistate Conservation Grant, please carefully review all information and instructions contained in this announcement. The following sections are included:

Application Procedures

Initial Proposals

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THE INITIAL PROPOSAL

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Please apply online at <https://afwamscgp.smapply.io/> . Read carefully all the instructions before you start your application.

Step 1. Create an Account

New applicants (first time users of this software) can create an account by clicking the "Register" button on the top right. Returning applicants, please sign in by entering your e-mail and password using the "Sign In" button on the top right.

Step 2. Complete the Eligibility Form

Fill out a brief eligibility form. Upon completion, if you are eligible, Multistate Conservation Grant Program will display.

Step 3. Submit a Complete Application

Proceed to complete the application. Please complete all application requirements using the online application system.

Review application carefully before submitting. Once you submit, you can't go back to make changes!

The Initial Proposal Instructions

Applicant Information

1. **Full Legal Name of Organization**
2. **Organization Website URL**
3. **Lead Applicant's Contact Information**
 - a. Title
 - b. First Name & Last Name
 - c. Street Address, City, State, Postal Code
 - d. Email
 - e. Phone Number
4. **Name and Affiliation of Co-Investigators(s)/Partner(s) (if applicable)**
5. **Have you applied for MSCGP funding before?**
6. **If yes, was/were your previous proposal(s) funded?**
7. **Date(s) of Previous Applications(s) from the most recent 3 years (if applicable)**

Program Eligibility

1. **Organization Information.** Please indicate the appropriate classification of your organization. If you are a Nonprofit, please indicate the type:
Applicant Classification:
 - 1) A State or a group of States,
 - 2) A State instrumentality (such as a State university),
 - 3) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to carry out the National Survey, or
 - 4) NonprofitNonprofit Classification (if applicable):
 - i. 501(c) status,
 - ii. Public or Private Institution of Higher Education.
2. **Beneficiary Information.** Please choose one of the following categories that best describes the geographic scope of the project:
 - a. Project benefits all 50 states.
 - b. Project benefits at least 26 states. Using states abbreviations, please list all states that will benefit.
 - c. Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States in a [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region](#) that will benefit and list the States in each Region that will benefit (use State abbreviations).
 - d. Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States belonging to a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies (click each of the Associations for the state members, [WAFWA](#), [MAFWA](#), [NEAFWA](#), [SEAFWA](#), . Please indicate the regional fish and wildlife association that will benefit and list the States in each region that will benefit (use State abbreviations).
3. **Primary Strategic Priority Addressed:**
4. **Terms and Conditions.** Use of MSCGP Grants - All applicants must ensure that their proposed project does not fund, in whole or in part, an activity that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or taking of sport fish. If you accept these terms, please state "I agree with the above terms and conditions."

Project Information

1. **Project Title.** Please provide a short, descriptive name of proposed project (<20 words)
2. **Project Length.** Please indicate whether the project will be one, two, or three years. (note: in nearly all cases, funding will only be approved for one year).
3. **Funding Source.** Funding Source. \$ SFR _____ \$ WR _____

R3 projects for Wildlife Restoration (WR) and SportsFish Restoration (SFR) will be considered. Please note that there is up to an additional \$5 million available for Wildlife Restoration projects (Hunting and Shooting Sports related) from the recent PR Modernization act. Projects targeting R3 Sportsfishing activities will be continuing to be funded from the traditional program.

4. **Funding Requested.** (MSCGP Grants are funded only for 1 year. Minimum Request: \$100,000): __\$

Problem and Needs to be addressed (150 words): The summary is the first opportunity to impress the importance of your proposal to the reviewers. Be sure to describe the need for the project as it relates to the Strategic Priority, alternatives in the absence of MSCGP support, as well as the benefits from addressing the problem and/or needs. Please make sure that the National Grants Committee members reviewing the proposal will see clearly, from the first page, the importance of allocating funds to your proposal.

Summary of Proposed Solution (One Paragraph, 200 words or less). The summary is the first opportunity to outline your project idea. Briefly describe how this project meet the needs of the Strategic Priority. Then, briefly describe how your proposed solution will address the problem or needs stated above, including the methods you will use, and how your proposed approach is superior to other possible approaches. Please make sure that the National Grants Committee members reviewing the proposal will see clearly, from the first page, the merits of your proposed approach to state fish and wildlife agencies. If selected to submit a full grant proposal, that will be your opportunity to explain the technical issues and merits of your approach in detail.

Implementation, Outreach and Communication of the results: (100 words) Briefly describe how will you implement the results or products of your project, plus enhance the usefulness, quality, and communication of the project's results, both during and after the project completion?

Budget

A detailed budget is not necessary at the Initial Proposal phase, only a general budget is required. A sample table is included in the Initial Proposal template attached to this document. Please be sure to include the following information:

- The total cost of the project broken into three general categories:
- Salaries and benefits (If State employees are part of the team, they must not be getting paid from the state with Federal funds for their normal salary. If they get paid from the state with State funds, they can be paid with Federal funds from the grant. You should document this)
- Project related expenses (such as: travel, communications, supplies, consultants etc.)
- Equipment (purchases of tangible, personal property **over \$5,000.00** that will be used for a year or more)
- **Indirect costs (if any).** There is a 20% cap on indirect costs (calculated on Modified Total Direct Cost) for the MSCGP.

- Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) means all direct salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and subcontracts up to the first \$25,000.
- MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of \$25,000 (See 2 CFR 200 for more details).

In order to charge indirect costs higher than 10% (up to 20%), a copy of your most recent Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) is required (at the Full Grant Proposal phase). If your organization never had a NICRA, you can charge 10% De Minimus on Modified Total Direct Cost.

Qualifications

Instructions (try to keep it at a paragraph per individual):

- A brief abstract of relevant qualifications for the Primary Investigator/Project Coordinator.
- A brief abstract of relevant qualifications for the most important team members.

Evaluation of Proposals

The Association judges every proposal on its merits and how well it addresses one or more of the Association's Strategic Priorities. The following items should be addressed in the Project Statement and/or supporting budget information:

Responsiveness to Strategic Priority

1. How well does the Proposal address the specific needs of the Strategic Priority and the overall MSCGP?
2. Does the proposal take into consideration the most relevant science and or other technical components of the priority?

Project Quality

1. What is the geographic scope of the Proposal and its subsequent impacts/benefits?
2. Are the project objectives clearly defined, achievable, measurable, and connected to specific goals, milestones/deliverables, and timelines (i.e., a work plan) for completion?
3. Will/can the proposed objectives and methodology produce the desired outcomes identified in the Strategic Priority under which this Proposal was submitted?
4. What is the anticipated, extended use/life of the project's results/products/services after the project is completed, and are they clearly stated in the Proposal?

Practical Relevance to the mission of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Will the objectives/goals of the project benefit the mission of State fish and wildlife agencies?

Project Value

Is the project budget detailed enough and 'reasonable' when compared to the proposed benefits as well as other projects submitted under the priority?

Applicant's Qualifications

1. What are the qualifications of project personnel (project team, project leader, principal investigator)?
2. How well-suited are the project team's experience and background to successfully conduct this project?

Please note: Any attempt to discuss a Proposal with a National Grants Committee member or technical reviewer outside of a committee meeting is considered lobbying and is strictly prohibited.