



2021 Multistate Conservation Grant Program Announcement Performance Period: January 1st, 2021 – December 31st, 2021

Background and General Information

Authority

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.) and the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.), as amended by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-408, 114 STAT. 1766 §113 and 114 STAT. 1722 §122) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make up to \$6,000,000 available annually under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) to fund multistate conservation project grants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will cite this traditional program as the T-MSCGP.

In addition to the traditionally \$6,000,000 available funding (\$3,000,000 for Wildlife Restoration and \$3,000,000 for Sportsfish Restoration), the President signed the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act (Modernizing PR Act) (Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-94) into law on December 20, 2019. This law, among other measures, created a new "Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program" designed to support "R3" projects for hunting and shooting sports. The Service will cite this as the "Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program (M-MSCGP)." The M-MSCGP will make up to an additional \$5,000,000 available specifically for hunter and recreational shooter recruitment related grants, including related communication and outreach activities.

Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) and the Service work cooperatively to manage T-MSCGP and M-MSCGP ("R3 MSCGP"). Administratively, both programs will function similarly to recent administration of the T-MSCGP. The Association manages the grant application process, providing oversight, coordination, and guidance. The Service awards and manages the grants. Both programs are competitive grant programs.

The primary goal of both programs is to fund projects that address regional or national priority needs of the State fish and wildlife agencies (States) and their partners that are beyond the scope and capabilities of a single State. Eligible grant proposals are reviewed by the Association's National Grants Committee (NGC) with the assistance of one or more technical committees. Proposals must address eligible activities in one or more of the Association's selected Strategic Priorities to be considered. Strategic Conservation Priorities are developed annually by the Association, and are used to guide proposal development and grant selection for the program.

Projects awarded under T-MSCGP may use the funds for sport fisheries and wildlife management and research projects, boating access development, hunter safety and education, aquatic education, aquatic R3 programs, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation.

Grants awarded under the M-MSCGP can only use the funds for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment programs, including related communication and outreach activities.

Total Funding

Estimated Funding for T-MSCGP: Up to \$6,000,000.

Estimated Funding for M-MSCGP: Up to \$5,000,000.

Estimated Total Funding: Up to \$11,000,000 for T-MSCGP and M-MSCGP awards combined.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Only eligible grant proposals will be considered for funding so please ensure that you meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Applicant Eligibility: The following entities may receive a Multistate Conservation Grant:

- A state, a state instrumentality such as a state university, or a group of states;
- The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, to carry out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation; and
- Non-Profit organizations
- Private or Public institutions of higher education.

2. State Benefit Requirement: Projects must benefit:

- At least 26 States,
- A majority (over 50%) of the States in a [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region](#)
- A majority (over 50%) of States in a Regional Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies ([WAFWA](#), [MAFWA](#), [NEAFWA](#), [SEAFWA](#)).

3. Strategic Priorities Addressed: An applicant's Initial Proposal must address at least one of the current MSCGP Strategic Priorities (See Attachment for details).

1. Conservation & Science
2. Relevancy & Inclusion & Participation
3. Communication programs that further regional & national Conservation Efforts Capacity Building & Association Support
4. Trust Fund Stewardship
5. Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)
 1. Research and Evaluation
 2. Marketing
 3. Mentoring
 4. Engaging New Audiences
 5. R3 Capacity and Infrastructure

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: