CHI–CAL RIVERS FUND
Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2020: Navigating
an Abbreviated Application Process
WEBINAR AGENDA

• Chi–Cal Rivers Fund Overview
• 2020 Funding Opportunity
  • Changes in 2020
  • Funding Priorities
  • FAQ
• Questions & Answers
PUBLIC–PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- ArcelorMittal
- BNSF Railway
- Chicago Community Trust
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- Walder Foundation
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2013–2019

• 5.7 M gal stormwater storage
• 2,900 acres habitat restoration
• 92 acres public green space added or improved

41 grants: $8.3 million
Grantee match: $20.2 million
Total investment: $28.4 million
2020 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- Request For Proposals & Project information at: www.nfwf.org/programs/chi-cal-rivers-fund

- Available funding: $1 million

- Grant size: $100,000–$300,000

- Grant duration: 24 months/2 field seasons

- Funding cycle timeline:
  - Full-proposals due - July 9
  - Grant awards announced - November
  - Grant agreements developed - November - January
CHANGES IN 2020

- No pre-proposal application
- Full proposals due July 9 – anyone can apply if eligible
  - Shorter narrative (6 pages)
  - Detailed, line-item budget
  - Financial documents required
- Additional guidance documents available
- Awards will still be made in November, no other delays expected
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation supports more than 70 grant programs to protect and restore our nation's wildlife and habitats. We encourage you to read our complete list of...
GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible projects:

✓ Must occur in close proximity and demonstrate direct benefits to the major waterways of the system and their tributaries

Eligible applicants:

✓ Non-profit organizations
✓ State, tribal, and local governments
✓ Educational institutions

Ineligible applicants:

✓ Individuals
✓ Federal agencies
✓ Private for-profit firms
FUNDING CATEGORIES

1. Habitat Quality
2. Green Stormwater Infrastructure
3. Public Access

- Identify one category that best describes the project. You may also identify any relevant secondary categories.
- Summaries of previously funded projects can be viewed at: https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chi-cal-rivers-fund
HABITAT QUALITY

Primary Strategies

Support on-the-ground riparian and in-stream habitat improvements along or near the major waterways of the system

- Restore/enhance riparian habitat
  - Bank stabilization
  - Invasive species control
  - Native plant restoration

- Restore/enhance in-stream habitat
  - Install in-stream structures to improve geomorphological processes and habitat for fish and aquatic organisms
GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Primary Strategies

Support green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects that improve stormwater capture and storage to reduce runoff, improve water quality, and improve aquatic environments

- Install and maintain GSI
  - Rain gardens
  - Bioswales
  - Green roofs
  - Pervious surfaces

- Create and enhance urban wetlands
  - Construct/improve wetlands
  - Improve wetland habitat

- Maintain existing GSI
  - Maintain and/or improve function

- Restore urban forests
GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Competitive projects will:

✓ Incorporate planning for increasingly severe and more frequent storm events into project design, location, and/or function

✓ Connect to a larger green infrastructure plan

✓ Maintenance: outline authority to maintain sites and strategic approach

✓ Be of sufficient size and scope

✓ Projects must add or maintain a minimum 50,000 gallons of stormwater storage capacity annually to be competitive

- EPA Stormwater Calculator
- i-Tree
PUBLIC ACCESS

Primary Strategies

Support improvements in public access and the use of natural areas, trails, and community green space in close proximity to major waterways

- Develop/construct public access points to natural areas
  - Construction of trails
  - Construction of access points
  - Other infrastructure enabling use of waterways

- Create/enhance public green space
  - Create or restore public green space to encourage community use of and access to natural areas and waterways
  - Improve access to passive and active recreation in underserved neighborhoods
LONG-TERM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

• ≥5 year plan required
• Plan elements:
  ✓ Actions needed
  ✓ Cost estimates
  ✓ Likely sources of funding
  ✓ Responsible parties
  ✓ Capacity for long-term stewardship
• If applicable, describe long term invasive species management and EDRR protocol
• Portion of grant funding may be used for plan development
• Plan must be completed prior to grant end date
A single organization may submit multiple applications

Unlikely for an organization to receive more than one award per cycle

Grantees with active Chi-Cal Rivers Fund awards are eligible to apply for additional funding

Projects that meet or exceed 1:1 match ratio tend to be more competitive, but **match is not required**

Match may be federal or non-federal

Match must be verifiable from the grantee’s records and applied/expended during grant POP
CHI-CAL FAQ: PROJECT DESIGN

- Applicants must demonstrate capacity & experience commensurate with the scale and funding request of the project

- Competitive projects will improve habitat and/or community resilience to climate-driven threats

- Projects should be shovel-ready (project can begin shortly after grant is awarded)

- Projects should apply most (≥70%) grant funding to on-the-ground improvements

- Projects should include long-lasting benefits, as demonstrated by long-term (5-year) maintenance, operation, and management plans (plan development is an eligible grant expense)

- Provide monitoring and evaluation plans to measure outcomes of the project beyond the grant period (monitoring and evaluation are eligible grant expenses)
CONTACT INFORMATION

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https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chi-cal-rivers-fund