

# 3M PFAS Settlement Priority 2 Grant Program Applicant Workshop

August 12, 2025

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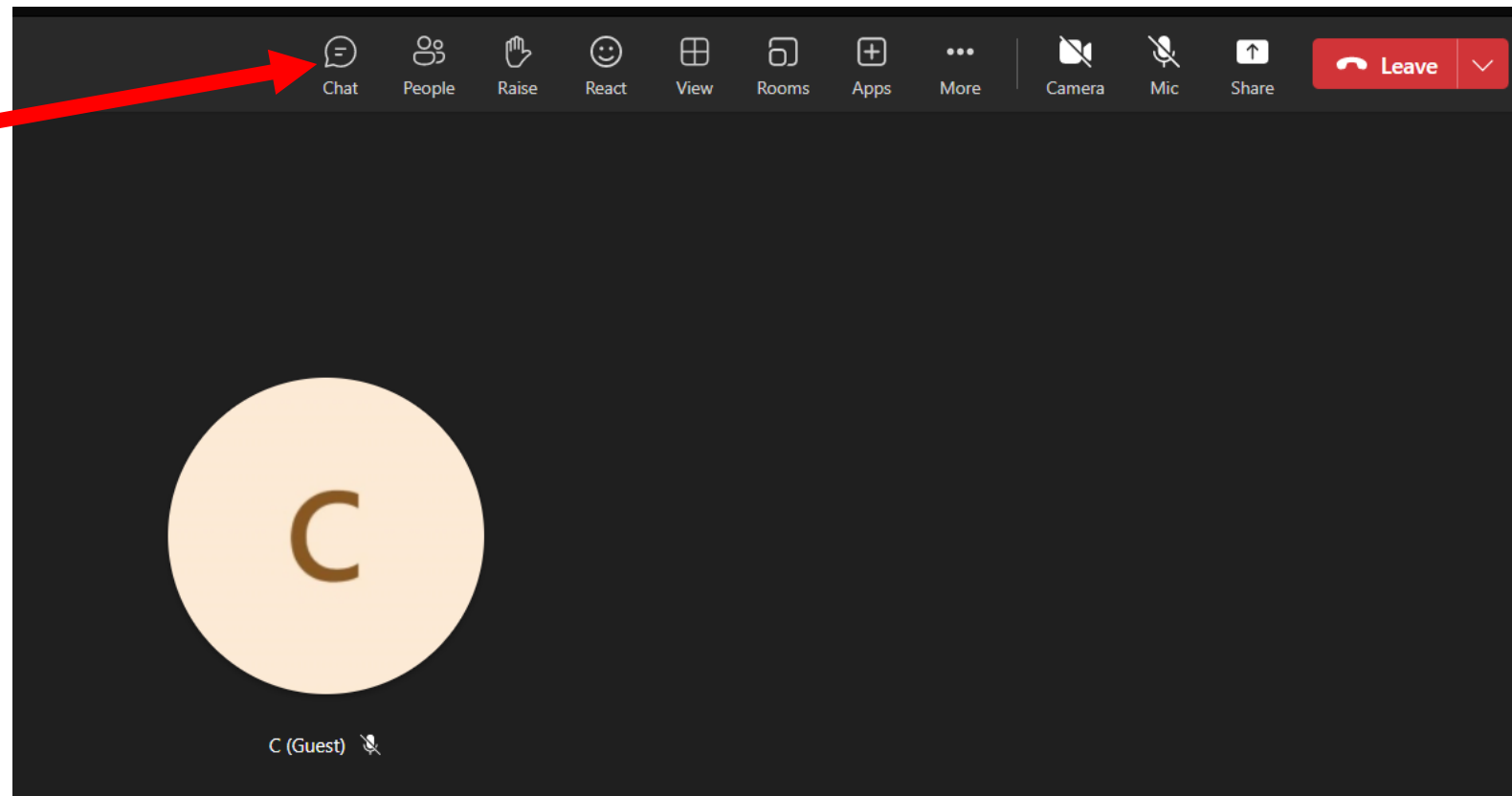
# 3M PFAS Settlement Priority 2 Grant Program Applicant Workshop

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# Housekeeping

- Please use the **Chat window** to ask questions
- We will respond to questions after each section of the presentation

Chat feature in Teams



# Agenda

- LOI Submission Summary
- Grant Application Components
- Project Information
- Evaluation Criteria
- Supporting Documents
- Evaluation and Award Process

# LOI Submission Summary

- 82 Letters of Intent (LOIs) were submitted, totaling \$72 million in proposed projects
- Will be a highly competitive proposal process – not enough funding to support all proposed projects

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- **Grant Application Components**
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# Application Components

## Supporting Documents

- Application form (PDF)
- Budget table (Excel)
- Letters of support (for applications involving multiple collaborators; any format acceptable)
- Completed appraisal and DNR Property Information Summary (if project involves the purchase of property)
- Preliminary designs and other supplemental information (as applicable; 10-page limit)

# Completing the Application Form

- Successful applicants were sent the application and budget form with the LOI notice in July.
- Save the application form PDF locally on your computer before you begin.
  - If you edit the PDF in a web browser, your responses may be cut off.
- Limit responses to the text boxes provided.
  - *Text not visible within the provided boxes will not be reviewed.*

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# Application Consistency with Letter of Intent (LOI)

- The project that was described in the LOI and approved should be consistent with the project in the full application. New projects will **not** be accepted.
- The following minor adjustments to applications are acceptable:
  - Scaling up (or down) activities presented in the LOI
  - If MPCA/DNR indicated to remove certain components or activities due to ineligibility, do not include those components in the application

# Primary Project Benefit Category

- The application form requires the identification of a primary benefit category (i.e., wildlife and habitat restoration, recreational fishing, outdoor recreation)
- Many projects would benefit more than one of these categories
  - You must choose ONE primary category – where you expect the majority of the project's benefits to accrue
- This will help us line up projects to our funding allocation targets
- Applications will be scored as a whole, regardless of what benefits category was selected
  - All eligible proposed project activities and potential benefits will be evaluated
- You may split your LOI into two or more separate applications if desired

# Project Description, part 1

- Narrative of what the project is designed to achieve

**Project description, part 1.** First, provide a high-level narrative description of the proposed project and its expected outcomes. Attach or include hyperlinks to relevant conceptual designs, pictures, maps, and other supplementary information, as appropriate.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide a high-level narrative description of the proposed project and its expected outcomes, as well as attach or include hyperlinks to relevant conceptual designs, pictures, maps, and other supplementary information.

# Project Description, part 2

- Detailed list of major project activities and completion dates
- Project activities should align across application form and budget table

**Project Description, part 2.** Second, in the table provided below, list the proposed project activities and their estimated completion dates. Include as much detail as is feasible at this stage, but at a minimum, include major project activities. Activities listed below should be consistent with activities listed in Attachment A – Budget Spreadsheet. Use the applicable number of rows. Assume a start date no earlier than July 1, 2026, and note that projects must be completed within five years.

Activity	Completion Date

# Level of Detail for Project Description

- DNR/MPCA need to know what they would be funding. Be clear about project activities, deliverables, and outcomes.
- Ensure your project description is sufficiently detailed so that you can adequately estimate your funding needs to complete the project.
- For example:
  - Capital improvement projects should go beyond conceptual design (e.g., Where exactly would the trail be located? What is the square footage of the parking lot?)
  - Restoration projects should present conceptual designs (e.g., What restoration activities will be completed and where?)
  - Education/engagement projects should detail the planned events (e.g., How many events will take place? How will participants be recruited?)

- Signs regarding fish consumption are required – *and will be provided* – for all fishing-related projects on waterbodies with fish consumption guidelines that go beyond the Statewide Fish Consumption Guidelines
- Other PFAS-related signage will require approval by the State prior to implementation
- Non-PFAS related signage also requires State approval

Questions on Project Information?



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# Evaluation Criteria

1. **Benefits to injured resources and services**
2. Cost
3. Consistent with local, county, state, and regional planning
4. Benefits multiple municipalities
5. Minimizes potential for additional wildlife injury or fish consumption related human health risks
6. Provides self-sustaining benefits
7. Minimizes adverse community impacts
8. Demonstrates equity and environmental justice
9. **Includes community engagement**
10. Provides public access
11. **Matching/leveraged funding**

# Benefits to Injured Resources and Services

- Benefits are improvements to a natural resource or service that was injured due to PFAS released by 3M
- Strong applications will have a clear **nexus, or connection**, to natural resources and services that were injured by PFAS released by 3M
  - That is, they will result in **benefits** to such harmed resources and/or services
- Harmed natural resources and services include, but are not limited to:
  - Terrestrial, wetland, and aquatic habitats
  - Wildlife
  - Nature-focused outdoor recreation opportunities

# Benefits to Injured Resources and Services (*ct'd*)

Examples of strong connections to injured resources/services:

- Aquatic habitat restoration: Benefits injured aquatic habitats and associated wildlife
- Improving understanding of fish consumption guidance: Improves people's ability to safely enjoy consuming fish
- Wildlife viewing platform construction: Benefits human enjoyment of wildlife, which PFAS harmed by making wildlife less abundant and thus less easy to see and enjoy

# Benefits to Injured Resources and Services *(ct'd)*

- Some LOIs included activities that do not have a clear nexus to injured natural resources and services and would not yield significant benefits to those resources/services. Examples include:
  - Buildings
  - Park landscaping (versus habitat restoration)
- Including components with weak benefits could reduce your score on this criterion
- Specific project components can be dropped as desired

# Community Engagement

- Some forms of community engagement/outreach are stronger than others
  - The evaluation team will give more credit to projects that actually *involve* community members than to projects that only produce one-way communications (e.g., emails, signs, brochures)
- For projects that anticipate substantial equity and environmental justice benefits, be sure to detail the project's engagement with underserved and underrepresented populations

# Matching/Leveraged Funding

- To count as matching/leveraged funding, the additional funding must directly contribute to meeting Priority 2 goals within the grant period
  - You must justify this connection in your application
  - Example 1: If you are building a community center and want to restore the land around the building, the cost of the building would not count as matching/leveraged funding
  - Example 2: If the application is for phase 2 of a broader project, phase 1 does not count as matching/leveraged funding
  - Example 3: If the application would augment a separately funded wetland habitat restoration project, the cost of the funded habitat restoration project would qualify as matching/leveraged funding
- In-kind contributions can count as matching/leveraged funding
  - Example: Volunteer labor to do native plantings

## Questions on Evaluation Criteria?



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# Completing the Budget Table

- Review the instructions in the Budget Table Excel file
- The table is pre-populated with common types of expenses
  - **Add or edit rows as necessary** to fully describe your project budget
- The activities in the budget table should be consistent with those listed in the application form (in the table under *Project Description, part 2*)
  - For example, the template includes Implementation Costs for three activities
    - The number of activities listed should match those listed in the Project Description Table
    - The descriptions of each activity in the budget table should match those from the Project Description Table
- Submit your budget table as an Excel file (do not convert to PDF)

**3M PFAS Settlement Priority 2 Grant Program  
Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet**

**Instructions:**

- Complete this form in detail, including itemizing and quantifying deliverables. Add or edit rows as necessary to fully describe the project budget. For projects involving multiple activities, these activities should be itemized separately, consistent with the table under Project description, part 2.
- Common eligible expenses are listed in the table and described at the bottom of this form. Refer to the RFP for more information. The State reserves the right to offer grant amounts that differ than the applicant's request.
- Matching or leveraged funds are not required but should be included if applicable. Responses should be consistent with Question 11 under 'Evaluation Criteria' (Matching/leveraged funding)

**Organization**

**Project Title**

**Project Coordinator**

Expense	Description	Grant Funds Requested	Matching or Leveraged Funds (if applicable)
Grant Administration/Project Management (should not exceed 20% of total project costs)			
Design, engineering, and construction observation (should not exceed 35% of total project costs)			
Implementation Costs (Activity 1)			
Implementation Costs (Activity 2)			
Implementation Costs (Activity 3)			
Operations & Maintenance (within the period of the grant)			
Other: [Enter Description]			
Contingency (10% max)			
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**Grant Administration/Project Management:** Costs should be directly related to management of the grant and project. Expenses should be reasonable and adequately documented. Typical eligible expenses would include salaries paid to employees of the grantee organization who are directly involved in the project's management or implementation, and the cost of benefits paid (employees of the grantee organization). Other expenses may be approved as eligible on a case-by-case basis. Overhead, such as rent or liability insurance, are not typically eligible.

**Implementation Costs:** Add rows as needed to capture all costs associated with implementing the proposed project activities. This may include (but is not limited to) categories such as Construction, Education/Outreach Events, Restoration Work, or Maintenance. Add additional rows as necessary for each activity listed in the application form under Project description, part 2.

**Operations & Maintenance:** Include costs for operations and maintenance within the grant period and for no more than two years after initial implementation.

# Completing the Budget Table (*ct'd*)

- **Grant Administration/Project Management:** Costs should be directly related to management of the grant and project. Expenses should be reasonable and adequately documented. Typical eligible expenses would include salaries paid to employees of the grantee organization who are directly involved in the project's management or implementation, and the cost of benefits paid (employees of the grantee organization). Other expenses may be approved as eligible on a case-by-case basis. Overhead, such as rent or liability insurance, are not typically eligible.

# Completing the Budget Table (ct'd)

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- **Operations & Maintenance:** Include costs for operations and maintenance within the grant period and for no more than two years after initial implementation.

# Estimating Project Costs

- All grantees will be responsible for covering any cost overruns
  - *The State will not provide additional funds if project costs are higher than proposed*
- You are expected to have received cost estimates for work at the time of application
  - Some LOIs presented unreasonably low costs
- You may want to account for inflation in the cost estimates

# Submitting Letters of Support

- Required for project collaborators
- If the proposed project would be conducting activities on lands owned by other municipalities, groups, or individuals, letters of support from landowners are required

# Conservation Easements and Deed Restrictions

- The State has discretion to require restrictions or limitations for projects
- Easements/deed restrictions will be required for projects on private land
- Refer to guidance in Appendix A of the RFP
- Finalized during development of Grant Agreements

# Submitting Supplemental Information

- Limited to 10 pages
- Could include preliminary project designs, maps, figures
- Supplemental information should be specifically referenced within the body of the application form
  - Reference specific page numbers if applicable
  - Example: Reference a local planning document with page numbers in the form
- These items can be submitted as separate files attached to your submission email, or can be combined into one PDF

Questions on Supporting Documents?



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# Overview of Evaluation Process

- The DNR and MPCA Evaluation Team will review and score each application
- The Evaluation Team will recommend projects for funding
- The DNR and MPCA commissioners will determine the final selection of projects to receive funding
  - Funding decisions will be based in part on the amount of funds requested and the funding available for each benefit category

# Overview of Award Process

- The State will negotiate with selected applicants to finalize project scope and budget (spring 2026)
- The applicant and the State will sign a negotiated Grant Agreement
  - See page 2 of the application form for a link to template grant agreements, which demonstrate the terms, requirements and assurances
- Grants will be reimbursement-based (no advancements)
- Invoices will be submitted for review and approval by DNR
- Reporting expectations will be defined in the Grant Agreement

# Other Questions?

[3MPriority2@state.mn.us](mailto:3MPriority2@state.mn.us)

