

Grants range from **\$1,000 - \$20,000**
\$100,000 available in total

Grant Description

The Lancaster Clean Water Fund serves as a catalyst for increased collaboration to achieve clean and clear water in Lancaster County by 2040. It provides a unique opportunity to work with landowners, leaders, and communities across the county on education, restoration and conservation projects to improve water quality. Across Lancaster County, clean water is a priority. With the majority of Lancaster County streams and much of our groundwater unhealthy, our community is a priority area for reducing runoff pollution in accordance with Lancaster's Countywide Action Plan (CAP).

This grant is created and managed by the Lancaster Clean Water Partners to accelerate and expand efforts to restore and sustain healthy waterways through the priorities and strategies of our Common Agenda. To view past project examples, go to:

<https://lanastercleanwaterpartners.com/lanaster-clean-water-fund/>



Information Meeting

April 9, 1-2 pm

Location: Zoom

[Register here](#) or
scan the QR code



Eligibility Summary

Eligible applying organizations must meet the following requirements:

- 501(c)(3) community benefit organizations (CBOs or a municipality)
- Registered with (or exempt from) the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations
- Provide an audit of financial review (less than 12 months old) (Optional)
- Provide a current form 990 filed with IRS (within the last 12 months)
- Provide a Non-Discrimination Policy meeting all federal requirements as it applies to your type of organization
- Projects must benefit residents of Lancaster County without discrimination
- CBOs may not receive grants from the same fund for more than 3 consecutive years
- Full eligibility details can be found at LandFound.org/grants.

Application Process

- Contact Alex Cooper to get the access code to the application.
- Use the code to access the application on the Community Foundation portal, found at <https://www.lancfound.org/grants/>.
- Application drafts submitted by 6/1/26 are eligible for review and feedback before final submission.
- Complete the full applications by the final deadline 7/1/26.

Grant Timeline

- Application opens: **3/3/26**
- Draft applications due for staff feedback (optional): **6/1/26**
- Final applications due: **7/1/26**
- Award notifications (yes or no): **9/1/26**
- Grant funding period: **9/1/26-9/1/27**
- Completion Report due: **10/1/27**

Evaluation Criteria

- **Need:** Does the project contribute to Lancaster County's collective effort for clean water?
 - **Equity and Inclusion:** Does the project include residents (especially those who have historically had unequal access to clean water) in the project planning and implementation? Do they include opportunities for expanding public education for residents about the project and water quality improvements?
 - **Implementation Plan:** How effectively does the application outline a plan for project coordination, utilization of funding, strategies, and timeline?
 - **Collaboration:** Does the application incorporate meaningful collaboration or partnerships with other organizations (such as municipalities or local watershed associations)?
 - **Results:** Does the application articulate ways the organization will measure the effect of the program or solution at a broad community level, and are the outcomes meaningful and feasible?
 - **Sustainability:** Is the project likely to continue on? For implementation, is the maintenance plan realistic and achievable?
- Please note that our team of local advisors score each application and then meet to discuss which applications to fund using the criteria listed above. While scores drive the decision-making process, the final decision is made by the advisors as a collective group.

Grant Specifics

- [We want your innovative and creative ideas!](#)

Some project categories include, but are not limited to:

- Art installations that educate the public about water pollution and opportunities
- Water quality monitoring (must include an educational component)
- Community-led implementation of conservation practices
- Watershed educational campaigns or student projects that involve the community
- Public/Private collaboration to encourage students or adults to consider conservation and water-related careers
- Match is not required.
- Awarded funds will be released to grantees after signing a Grantee Partner Agreement. Grantees will be responsible for submitting a report at the end of the grant which includes financials.

Application Questions

- **Project Summary** - Summarize how your project will provide education, outreach, and engage new audiences to improve Lancaster's water quality through collaboration and creativity.
- **Property Information** - Applicable only if your project will include activities and/or implementation on a site that is not owned by your organization.
- **Describe why your project is needed and who it will impact:** What are your organizational aspirations and current challenges regarding racial equity and inclusion, and/or social justice? Does this work relate to your project? If so, describe.
- **Project Timeline**
- **What are potential barriers** to this project's completion?
- **List any partners you are collaborating with to implement this project** directly. Describe how this partnership enhances the project or will contribute to its success. Support letters from partners are encouraged.
- **Budget** (fill out template, provided in application)
- **Please describe any matching funds** (not required) and provide documentation of commitment.
- How will you know if you achieved your goals? Describe the qualitative and quantitative goals of this project. Include specific metrics.
- **How will your planned project or program continue beyond this grant term?** Please describe what staff time, tasks, maintenance, or monitoring will be required and who will be doing it.
- **Required attachments:**
 - Landowner Commitment (only if activities and/or implementation will occur on the site that is not owned by your organization)
 - Match Commitment Letter (if applicable)
 - Board of Directors Roster
 - Project map and before photos (for implementation projects)
 - Maintenance Plan (for implementation projects). Funds are available for the establishment care of riparian buffers.
 - Additional attachments can be included, such as support letters, photos, site plans, etc.



Managed by Alex Cooper

Project Coordinator

Lancaster Clean Water Partners

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