



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Multistate Conservation Grant Program



Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a list of questions frequently asked by MSCGP applicants. If your question is not addressed, or you require further clarification please contact Silvana Yaroschuk, Multistate Conservation Grant Program Manager, at syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org.

Program Information

What is MultiState Conservation Grant Program?

The Sport Fish Restoration Act and the Wildlife Restoration Act, as amended by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-408, 114 STAT. 1766 §112 et seq.; Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, 16 U.S.C. §777 et seq.; and Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, 16 U.S.C. §669 et seq.) 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.

In addition to the regular (traditional) annually available funds of \$6,000,000, 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 as part of the larger Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020. This law amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (WR Act, 16 U.S.C. 669) to, among other measures, create a new Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program (R3 MSCGP).

How is R3 MSCGP different from Traditional MSCGP?

The traditional MSCGP makes available \$6,000,000 annually under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) to fund multistate conservation project grants, \$3 million from Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and \$3 million from the Wildlife Restoration Account. The funds made available from these two accounts are received from excise taxes collected on fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels, import duties, firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and arrow components and interest.

The Modernizing PR Act makes available to the Secretary of the Interior not more than \$5 million annually to be used exclusively for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities. The funds come from the authority at 26 U.S.C. 4161(b) of the IRS code of 1986 (Bows and arrows, etc.)

Will R3 MSCGP be administered differently from the traditional MSCGP?

Administratively, the R3 MSCGP will function similarly to the traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP), with the Association providing the Service with a priority list of projects to be considered for award. However, the R3 MSCGP awards are targeted exclusively for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program.

Can R3 programs related to the Sportsfishing still be funded and if so, how?

Yes, R3 related to the Sportfishing will be funded under Strategic Priority #5 although they will be funded through the Traditional MSCGP program using available Sportsfishing funding (DJ funds).

Eligibility Criteria

Can you clarify if my project meets the criteria for states benefited? Does my project really need to involve 26 states?

There are three options for a project to meet the criteria for state involvement. A project must benefit states using ONE of these criteria:

- 1) 26 states
- 2) **The majority** (over 50%) of states in a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service region
- 3) **The majority** (over 50%) of states in a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies

If a region has 3 states and the project benefits 2 states, than the project is eligible.

Are universities considered NGOs?

Yes.

Will the project fit better under Traditional MSCGP or the R3 MSCGP?

In order to answer those questions, you will have to look at the strategic priorities and the funding source.

What are Strategic Priorities and how do I find them?

Proposals must address one or more of the Strategic Priorities to be eligible. These priorities are updated annually with input from the Associations Technical Committees, Nonprofits and Federal partners.

When do we find them? When do we expect updated priorities to be published?

Detailed information regarding the Association's Selected Priorities can be found at the Association's website, <https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/multi-state-conservation-grants-program>.

The Initial Proposal

Do federal forms need to be submitted (SF 424) with the initial proposal or does that occur when the full proposal is submitted?

All the required Federal Forms must be submitted with the Final Proposal, no federal forms are required with the Initial Proposal.

I am submitting an Initial Proposal and have partners involved. Should I include statements of support?

No. The Initial Proposal is only four pages and there is no room for letters of support. It is enough to list your partners where appropriate within the text.

Can I include potential partners in my Initial Proposal or only confirmed partners?
Only confirmed partners should be included in your submission.

Budget

What is the amount of funding that can be requested?

Applicants should first review the guidelines to determine how much funding is available for the current MSCGP Cycle and consider if the project will require funds from Sport Fish Restoration, Wildlife Restoration, or both programs.

The most expensive project supported by the MSCGP is the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The project currently costs approximately \$7.4 million and funds are deducted from the Traditional MSCGP's annual funding, which is reflected in the estimate provided in the guidelines. The range of funding for other projects has been between \$30,000 - \$600,000 depending on the type of project, its scope and duration. Applicants are encouraged to request the minimum amount of funds required to complete the project.

How much money is available for the upcoming Multistate Conservation Grant Program Cycle?

Annually \$11,000,000 is available, \$5,000,000 of which are allocated *to be used exclusively for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants* that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.

The amount of funds changes annually as the amount allocated to National Survey changes, and additional recoveries from previous grants (when funds are returned when grants close). As we get closer to approving the Priority List, the amount will be updated and available.

How competitive is the MSCGP?

Below is a table of MSCGP Cycles and the number of proposals submitted, and projects funded:

MSCGP Cycle	LOIs Submitted	Proposals Invited	Projects Funded
2021	85	52	38
2020*	110	74	64
2019	55	41	39
2018	25	20	18
2017	24	18	17
2016	30	17	14
2015	33	19	14

*In 2020, \$5,000,000 were added to MSCGP funding through Modernizing PR Act

Can I charge Indirect Cost under MSCGP and if so, what is the right amount?

Yes. The best source how to calculate Indirect Cost is 2CFR200. *The MSCGP program has traditionally asked applicants to voluntarily cap their overhead at 20% in order to make more funds available for programmatic activity. Please contact the Association if you any questions or concerns about this.*

The Indirect costs is calculated based 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%, 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 MTDC

Is there a matching requirement?

No match is required.

Performance

What is the timeframe in which projects should be completed?

The performance period is one year, January 1st, 20XX – December 31st, 20XX.

Can federal agencies be contractors or subrecipients of MSCGP funds?

Yes, federal agencies and federal personnel can be, and often are, involved in MSCGP projects (through contracts, subawards, etc.) Federal agencies cannot be primary recipients of MSCGP funds, except for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

Where do I find more information about MSCGP?

Below are the resources you can use to find more information and answer your questions

MSCGP WebPage:

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/multi-state-conservation-grants-program>

GrantsSolution WebSite

www.grantsolutions.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/Multistate/MS.htm>

Contact AFWA staff before and during the submission:

syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org

Contact WSFR Staff after October 1st:

john_stremple@fws.gov