

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS)

### 1. What is a “need”?

The CWNS defines a “need” as the unfunded capital costs (as of January 1, 2012) of a project that addresses an existing or projected (within next 20 years) water quality or water quality related public health problem. A complete list of needs categories for the 2012 CWNS can be found at <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/cwns/plan.cfm>

### 2. How do I get my needs into the CWNS?

MDE will be entering needs for eligible projects into the CWNS database. MDE and its contractors will be collecting data on eligible projects from January through October 2012. MDE and/or its contractors will be contacting counties, municipalities, and other entities with potential needs to discuss projects. The projects must be capital projects to meet water quality or public health goals that can be “documented” (i.e., they must document the water quality or public health problem, the specific solution [i.e., project] that is proposed for the problem, the specific cost of the solution, and the source of the problem, solution, and cost information). The county/municipality will be responsible for providing acceptable documentation for the project; MDE and its contractors will format the document for entry into the CWNS database.

### 3. How do I “document” a need?

Many typical planning or engineering documents, such as Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs), Engineer’s Estimates, Watershed Plans, Financial Assistance Applications, or other planning documents contain the information needed to document projects. For example, the narratives in CIP or financial assistance applications typically discuss the need for a project and the proposed solution, and also provide cost information. MDE and its contractors will work with counties/municipalities to ensure that proper documentation on needs is collected. A list of documents pre-approved by EPA can be found here <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/cwns/plan.cfm>.

### 4. Will providing information to the CWNS about my projects guarantee that the projects will be funded?

No – the CWNS is simply a data collection effort, and it is not directly tied to funding sources or decisions; however, by ensuring that Maryland captures as many of its eligible needs as possible, the state will demonstrate its needs to Congress, which can influence the amount of funding Maryland receives for its SRF program.

### 5. How does the CWNS relate to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) process?

The CWNS and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL are two different efforts; however, the information developed for the WIP will be very useful in documenting needs for the CWNS. Although MDE will work with the counties and municipalities as necessary to ensure that the Best Management Practices and other elements of the WIPs are put into the CWNS database, the WIPs will not capture all of the needs in Maryland. MDE will still need to work with the counties and municipalities to ensure that needs not represented within the WIPs are captured by the CWNS.