

Updated 3.21.2024

Notice: All CPRG Implementation Questions should refer to the EPA Website (<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/about-cprg-implementation-grants>), Notice of Funding Opportunity (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/CPRG%20General%20Competition%20NOFO.pdf>) and EPA Q&A document (<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/about-cprg-implementation-grants#questions>) for latest and EPA guidance. The following answers represent MDE's best understanding of the CPRG Program at the time of the session.

March 21, 2024 CPRG Information and Q&A Virtual Session

Q: There are multiple environmental bills that did not pass in Maryland's legislative session this year. Will this affect Maryland's ability to compete for CPRG funding?

A: Maryland is well positioned to meet CPRG requirements and apply for the competitive implementation grants. Maryland has been able to leverage prior state-wide climate action plans, existing GHG inventories, and the Maryland Climate Pathway Report during the CPRG process. In general, there are states across the country that face far more climate planning challenges in this program.

Q: When is funding awarded from the EPA for the implementation grants due April 1, 2024 and how is it related to the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan due in 2025?

A: The EPA has indicated that they hope to award the CPRG implementation grants in October 2024. The CCAP will look different for each state depending on its current level of climate planning. Maryland intends to use the CCAP to build upon its [PCAP](#) and dig further into the details of project specific implementation to achieve Maryland's climate goals.

Q: For the implementation grant, can feasibility studies or technical projects around capacity building be included?

A: The verifiable greenhouse gas emissions reductions between 2025-2030 is an important component for the scoring criteria of the implementation grant. As a result, it will be difficult for projects such as feasibility studies to score highly and create a compelling application by themselves. However, it is possible for feasibility studies and capacity building projects to be tied to GHG emissions reduction implementation projects for the implementation grant.

Q: Will there be another Notice of Funding Opportunity from the EPA?

A: No, the Inflation Reduction Act only provided the EPA with funding for this one round of CPRG Implementation Grant funding.

Updated 3.21.2024

Q: How can I connect with MDE's effort to identify future funding sources?

A: MDE will be creating a series of outreach opportunities in development of the CCAP, in addition to posting new resources on the MDE CPRG website to connect people with funding opportunities. Another option is to contact Governor Moore's Federal Investment Team, which tracks all federal funding opportunities that are applicable to the state. The Maryland Energy Administration and Maryland Department of Transportation also keep updated resources related to federal funding opportunities and assistance:

- MEA: <https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/FederalOpportunities.aspx>
- MDOT: <https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PagelId=196>

February 12, 2024
CPRG Information and Q&A Virtual Session

Q: Since Maryland's PCAP won't be posted until March 1, 2024, how can Maryland's local governments identify what is covered in the PCAP?

A: It is MDE's intention that Maryland's PCAP covers the full range of project submittals received during its stakeholder input process over the past months. If there are any specific questions about projects, you are welcome to send an email to climategrants.mde@maryland.gov.

Q: Can you provide background on the BEPS hold and the potential impact on the CPRG implementation grant application?

A: MDE can't speak in detail on this hold. However, MDE does not foresee an impact on its CPRG implementation grant application.

Q: Are there any NOFO's for Real-Time Indoor Air Quality Management Plans for Maryland Public Schools located in Justice40 areas?

A: EPA has an RFP out due March 19th for indoor air quality in schools <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/351780>.

Q: It sounds like you have been working on projects for a long time. If you are just starting grant writing, what's your recommendation on how to get up to speed or partner?

A: A great starting point is to attend the upcoming training through the Sustainable Maryland Program on February 26, 2024. You can register for it [here](#). It is also a good idea to connect with your local MSA that is leading a CPRG planning grant.

Updated 3.21.2024

Q: Can you share the other potential projects/focus areas MDE is considering for additional multi-state coalition applications?

A: MDE has submitted two notices of intent for multi-state coalition applications covering the Natural Working Lands and Buildings sectors. You can find more information about them [here](#) in the “CPRG Implementation Grant Status Update” section.

MDE is also coordinating on several other potential multi-state coalition applications. One potential coalition relates to medium and heavy duty zero emission vehicle infrastructure on the I-95 corridor between Connecticut and Maryland. Another potential coalition relates to residential projects that improve weatherization readiness for low income and disadvantaged communities. Notices of intent have not been submitted to EPA on these proposals. If you have a specific question about this topic, please email climategrants.mde@maryland.gov.

Q: Do you have a sense of what the timing might be for when you or the multi-state coalitions want to have letters of support?

A: With support from UMD’s Environmental Finance Center, MDE plans to pull together the applications and post draft letters of support on its CPRG website in the next few weeks. MDE will be at the Sustainable Maryland Leadership training on February 26th with the draft letters and detailed instructions about how to support those applications.

Q: For the Tier B BEPS implementation application, what level of detail is MDE looking for regarding specific project ideas?

A: For local governments interested in the two proposals that MDE has already expressed intent, specific work sessions will be coordinated to discuss the level of detail for projects. MDE’s proposal will reflect that buildings are in different phases in preparing for BEPS and decarbonization. MDE is requesting Maryland local governments interested in these applications to reach out to climategrants.mde@maryland.gov.

January 8, 2024 CPRG Information and Q&A Virtual Session

Q: Is there anywhere I can find more information regarding the annual reports required of State agencies?

A:
<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Pages/Annual-Climate-Change-Reports.aspx>

Updated 3.21.2024

Q: Who is able to apply for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants? Are public school districts eligible? Can private entities apply?

A: The eligible applicants and direct recipients of the grants are governmental entities, but there are opportunities for partnerships. All eligible applicants can be found in the EPA Notice of Funding Opportunity:

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/CPRG%20General%20Competition%20NOFO.pdf>. The EPA also posts a Q&A updated which stated (available here: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/about-cprg-implementation-grants#questions>):

Municipal entities as described above may also be subrecipients of a CPRG implementation grant. For example, a county government could receive a CPRG grant and provide a subaward to the county school district to implement a GHG reduction measure (such as building weatherization and addition of rooftop solar on multiple schools). Municipal entities may also serve as part of a coalition for a CPRG implementation grant.

While not eligible applicants for this grant, private entities are welcome to submit project proposals through the MDE form so MDE can consider the project ideas and share them with the other MSA's that received a CPRG planning grant.

Q: Is the expectation that governmental entities will be solely responsible for project implementation, or will the grant funding also be dispersed to non-governmental entities to implement projects?

A: It depends on the nature of the projects that get submitted. If project implementation engages the private sector, the requirements need to follow the EPA's and governmental request for proposal (RFP) process and competitive bid process.

Q: How would the process work to apply for methane reductions from large dairy farms around Maryland? Would that be eligible? Do we need to identify the specific locations now, or would a fund be created for the eligible dairy farms to use in the future?

A: Yes, this would be eligible. MDE has been seeing this process approached both ways from other eligible entities. Applications will likely be strengthened if there are specific projects articulated with estimated greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Q: If there is a project that would fit under both a specific MSA and the State of Maryland, should it be pitched to both entities?

A: MDE encourages sharing the project with both entities and to inform MDE with who you have also shared it with. If you see a viable project moving forward with a specific local jurisdiction, make sure to share it there.

Updated 3.21.2024

Q: There are many projects that could be funded, specifically in the waste sector, that were not included in the Climate Pollution Reduction plan issued in December 2023. Is there any opportunity for the PCAP due March 1, 2024 to strengthen waste initiatives?

A: Yes, the best way specific measures can be included in the PCAP is through the form submittal.

Q: Can you tell us what measures MDE has decided to include in its competitive grant application?

A: MDE has not finalized its proposal at this time but will decide in the next week or two. MDE is actively participating in multi-state coalition discussions for a large-scale application. There are a range of measures being discussed in these coalitions, such as measures within the 'Natural Working Lands' and 'Transmission' sectors. Additionally, MDE is still considering stakeholder input and working with fellow state agencies.

Q: Will there be extra support for rural counties? We often do not have resources to do the planning and management for large projects. (From Kent County)

A: Yes, MDE is launching a local support program targeting 12 of Maryland's counties, including Kent County. Please contact us at climategrants.mde@maryland.gov to connect.

Q: Is there anything that non-eligible applicants are supposed to submit for the Letter of Intent?

A: No, the LOI's are only for eligible applicants to submit to the EPA (optionally).

Q: Can we submit 'idea-phase' projects in the form that are not fully planned out?

A: Yes, you can submit projects that are not completely planned out through the form.

Q: Is the State planning to include measures from multiple sectors in its implementation grant application, or will it mainly focus on one area?

A: MDE's implementation grant application will likely have a narrow focus to limit the crossover of measures with local jurisdictional applications. Maryland is aiming to be most competitive for funding by submitting applications that have varying sets of measures, implement measures at different levels of government, and are in multiple funding tiers.

December 12, 2023 CPRG Information and Q&A Virtual Session

Q: Could you talk about how the PCAPs are being coordinated between the state one and the 3 MSAs in the state?

A: While the PCAPs for each entity are separate efforts, there is close coordination between groups to share data, projects, and best practices in developing the PCAPs. The state is participating as an active member on the steering committees for the MSA planning grants to provide information about what MDE is planning at the state level. There is also coordination between the state and MSAs to determine which GHG emission reduction measures are most effective at each level of government.

Q: How will local governments in the D.C. region be able to partner with the state on the implementation grant?

A: There is ongoing coordination between the state and MWCOG regarding projects that have already been submitted for the PCAP. The technical committee for the D.C. MSA is meeting at the end of this week with MDE to further discuss these projects. We encourage sending an email to climategrants.mde@maryland.gov or filling out [this form](#) by January 12th, 2024 to select projects for consideration in the state's competitive grant application.

Q: If an entity is a 501(c)(3) that implements projects across the state, should it coordinate with the statewide and 3 MSAs coalitions of governments?

A: Yes. MDE encourages submitting [this form](#) to indicate if the project is statewide or specific to a certain MSA. MDE is coordinating with the other MSA's to be most competitive in the competitive application(s) to benefit the State of Maryland.

Q: How could entities, such as UMD-College Park and UMD-Extension, that work across counties be integrated into these various county-based efforts?

A: MDE encourages submitting [this form](#) to communicate potential projects at the state level because there is significant opportunity for statewide collaboration. There are also specific county and city projects that are looking for additional funds to be replicated or expanded upon, so it is important to elevate these projects from the jurisdictions where they are being led. Additionally, leveraging existing projects that can be implemented in the near term and realize GHG emissions reductions between 2025-2030 is beneficial to a competitive grant application.

Q: How does the PCAP connect with the MD Climate Pathway Report many of us submitted comments on, what is the status of integrating public comment feedback, and when that will be available?

Updated 3.21.2024

A: MDE is directly using the Maryland Climate Pathway Report analysis and all of the stakeholder feedback to inform the PCAP due in March 2024 as the lead planning entity for the State of Maryland. The PCAP will be publicly available for stakeholder feedback throughout this process for continued iteration and improvement.

Q: What level of detail does a measure need to have in the PCAP for it to qualify for the implementation grants?

A: MDE is keeping a close eye on this question and has learned from EPA published technical assistance that inclusion in the PCAP is at a measure specific level. For example, a measure included in the PCAP could be “light duty vehicle electrification” and there needs to be a detailed analysis showing achievement of GHG emissions reductions. However, it does not need to include highly specific details, such as the location of project implementation, which would be required in an implementation grant. The EPA also provided 400 sample measures that they might expect to see on a PCAP [here](#).

Q: For the CPRG project proposals, any tips for figuring out GHG measurement for strategies we know have strong climate benefits (such as reducing the production and consumption of materials or transitioning from single-use disposal products to an economy based on durable products) but which the measurement may be imperfect or virtually nonexistent?

A: The EPA is providing some technical assistance but it is not perfect. On the form submission, MDE encourages submission of these projects as early as possible where GHG emission reduction quantification is challenging. Leave a note or send an email if additional support is needed because MDE may have resources through the EPA for those quantifications.

Q: How does the EPA score cumulative GHG emission reduction benefits from measures such as recovering food waste from landfills and then using it as compost to create a carbon sink?

A: The EPA will be hosting a webinar specifically on GHG emission reduction quantification for the competitive grants and will likely address this question.

Q: MWCOCG has listed its steering committee roster, and a technical committee roster for CPRG. Does MDE have comparable committees?

A: No. MDE is utilizing its existing Commissions, Task Forces, and Working Group to coordinate the CPRG Planning grant for Maryland.

Q: Is Maryland (MEA) considering fully funding some of the other grant applications and existing programs - like MSEC, solar for all, CFI, public facility grants, multi-family energy efficiency, etc. (or even tree planting)? One way to approach this is to do more of what we're already doing. And to get more assistance to municipalities who have less capacity to access those programs.

Updated 3.21.2024

A: MDE is looking for opportunities where ongoing work can be built on and where there are funding gaps for programs that have reached its capacity.

Q: Have you heard if the EPA is allowing any of the implementation grant funds to go towards building repairs that must take place before energy efficiency/solar can proceed in LMI homes or multi-unit properties?

A: EPA has published the scoring rubric for the Implementation grants on the NOFO and more details on their website:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/about-cprg-implementation-grants>.

Q: Is there a matching fund requirement for the implementation grant?

A: There is not a matching requirement. The EPA is asking how other funds are being leveraged to pursue the measures, in addition to demonstrating the cost effectiveness of each CPRG dollar spent.

Q: Can you elaborate on what "policies" EPA will fund? Will this include legislation?

A: MDE is unsure how to answer at the moment and would need to look more closely at EPA guidance on this. There must be demonstration of how the measures will deliver GHG emissions reductions and community benefits to be competitive in the grant application.

Q: Would the EPA fund sub-plans, such as a tree canopy plan that aims to increase carbon absorption, or a building energy plan?

A: There is likely an opportunity, but it has to be tied to measurable GHG emission reduction and community benefits. MDE is unsure if plans on their own would be competitive for CPRG implementation funds unless they are a part of an implementation effort.

Q: Does submitting the survey due on 1/12 financially commit the local jurisdiction?

A: No, there is no financial commitment for submitting the survey.

Q: Are you aware of any projects that work to address solid waste and reuse and NOT compost related?

A: Projects that address solid waste and reuse but are not compost related include: reducing single use plastics, waste reduction efforts in general, and measures that focus on landfills.