



Frequently Asked Questions

Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning Grant



Help us build a bank of frequently asked questions! Send your questions to: placebasedplanning@wrd.state.or.us.

Q: Can we still apply if we do not have a collaborative process already in place or if we haven't done much water planning in our area?

A: The Department recognizes that all applicants are at different stages in the planning process. This opportunity is meant to support groups that are pre-collaboration as well as groups that have been collaborating for years. Places that have not done collaborative water planning are encouraged to apply, as are places that have done extensive water planning.

Q: Do we need to have letters of support or a sign-on letter from all of the stakeholders or partners who will be involved in a place-based planning effort?

A: The Department does not expect that *all* partners and stakeholders will be identified and contacted prior to submitting a Letter of Interest, though there must be a clear *intent* and *ability* to reach out to a balanced representation of interests through the planning process. The Department recognizes that much of the convening work will be done as a part of Planning Step 1 once a funding decision has been made. It is important to note, however, that demonstrable support will strengthen your Letter of Interest.

Q: How do we develop a budget if we do not quite know how much place-based planning will cost?

A: While the Department would like you to think critically about your funding request, we understand the difficulty in developing a concrete budget for a collaborative planning effort. The Department anticipates releasing a portion of the funds for Planning Step 1. This money can be used to help convene partners and stakeholders and develop a work plan with an associated budget that will guide follow-on work. At a minimum, please give substantial thought to the financial support you need to accomplish Planning Step 1.

Q: What if I can communicate sections of our Letter better in a table, a figure or bullet points?

A: The Department encourages you to present information in a format that makes the most sense. Focus on quality and clarity of any content, rather than a particular format.

Q: Can I apply for a place-based planning grant even if I do not plan to be the convener?

A: The Department expects that, generally speaking, the applicant(s) will coordinate with the convener(s) of a place-based planning effort. Having the commitment of a local convener or co-conveners will greatly strengthen a Letter of Interest. There may be instances, however, in which an entity submits a Letter of Interest on behalf of their community with the intent to identify a convener or co-conveners once funds are awarded. This is acceptable, but is not preferable.

Q: What contents are required for the Letter of Interest?

A: Appendix B of the Request for Letters of Interest provides a template for the Letter of Interest. Each Letter of Interest must address each of the sections in Appendix B (sections “a” through “g”). The template suggests content for each of those sections, as well as attachments. You should tailor the contents of the Letter to reflect your place and determine what contents and attachments will strengthen your Letter.

Q: Will you accept Letters of Interest after the deadline?

A: Letters of Interest received after December 7th will not be considered for the pilot grants, but will help us understand, articulate and address the statewide needs for this type of collaborative water planning. Even if you are not able to meet the December 7th deadline, we strongly encourage you to submit a Letter of Interest.

Q: What counts towards the cost-share/match?

A: Cost-share/match can consist of cash or in-kind contributions. OWRD accepts all non-OWRD funds as match. In order to qualify it must directly contribute to a planning step in the place-based planning process. OWRD counts as in-kind match the time that will be spent coordinating and engaging in collaborative efforts. Any pre-award work that took place after July 27, 2015 to convene interested parties and develop a Letter of Interest can be counted as cost-share/match.

Q: Will OWRD planning and technical assistance be subtracted from the requested grant funding?

A: The technical and planning assistance provided by the Department is in addition to the grant funding. Value of Department assistance can be estimated for purposes of a budget, but this amount will not be subtracted from the requested grant funds. The Department has \$750,000 to distribute in the form of grants and we also have staff capacity to support day-to-day coordination as well as help groups identify additional technical assistance within the department.

Q: Can the work we put into the Letter of Interest be reimbursed by the grant or be counted towards cost-share/match?

A: Pre-award work that took place after July 27, 2015 to convene interested parties and develop a Letter of Interest can be counted as cost-share, but will not be reimbursable.

Q: Can we still initiate place-based effort if we do not receive a pilot grant?

A: The Place-Based Planning Guidelines and associated principles can be used as a framework to address water planning needs in your place even if you do not receive funding from our Department. For the areas that are not awarded grant funding during this initial pilot phase, Department staff intend to help identify other funding opportunities that could potentially be used to support place-based planning efforts. The Department is supportive of locally initiated and led collaborative efforts that seek to address complex water problems in an integrated manner.