

# Funding Projects to Achieve Mission Assurance Objectives – A Quick Guide



Existing Department of Defense (DoD) and non-DoD programs can be leveraged to fund the planning and/or implementation of stormwater and natural resource projects that meet multiple regulatory requirements as well as support water quality and climate resilience goals on or related to military installations. The contents of this fact sheet will serve as a funding source reference “quick guide” when planning future projects to meet multiple objectives, supporting the goals and outcomes of Executive Orders (EOs) 13508 (“Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration”) and 14008 (“Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”), the Sikes and Clean Water Acts, and the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Table 1 outlines examples of funding opportunities for projects that simultaneously meet multiple installation objectives, including meeting municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit requirements, providing total maximum daily load (TMDL) credit, achieving the goals of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs), and meeting climate resilience goals. While projects implemented outside of the fenceline do not directly support an installation’s compliance with stormwater regulatory requirements or the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, DoD funding can be used to support mission assurance while building partnerships with defense communities to promote land conservation, climate resilience, and secure mission critical transportation corridors and critical assets and services (e.g., schools, hospitals, etc.) that support the health and welfare of military personnel and DoD employees. Keep in mind that creative funding proposals can expand the value of projects to provide secondary benefits and meet multiple objectives for water quality, natural resources, and climate resilience goals.

**Table 1. Funding Opportunities for Projects that Meet Multiple Installation Objectives**

Program and Location	Description and Applicable Project Types	Funding Match	External Partner	Activities Funded	Funding Cycle
Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP) (On-Base)	A Military Construction program to fund projects that improve energy resilience, contribute to mission assurance, save energy, and reduce DoD’s energy costs. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 National Defense Authorization Act modified this program to allow for the funding of stormwater management projects.	Not required	Not required	Planning and Implementation	Annual (next application cycle for FY2025)
DoD Legacy Resource Management Program (On-Base)	Designed to provide financial assistance to installation-specific efforts to preserve and enhance natural resources while enabling military readiness and testing/training. A Legacy project may involve ecosystem management, invasive species control, Native American consultations, and/or wildlife monitoring.	Not required	Not required <sup>1</sup>	Planning and Implementation	Annual (funds allocated by FY, not lump sum)
Military Installation Sustainability Program (Off-Base)	An Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) program which provides technical and financial assistance for projects which protect and enhance military installation sustainability such as the development or update of Compatible Use Plans / Joint Land Use Studies and the planning and design of Military Installation Resilience projects.	10% non-Federal cost share	Required	Planning	Annual (service nomination); or as requested (community nomination)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grants (Off-Base)	The NFWF has seven active grant programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Funding is allocated to projects which sustain, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats.	Required (varies by grant program)	Required	Planning and Implementation (varies by grant program)	Annual (varies by grant program)

<sup>1</sup> Per the 1997 NDAA, Legacy Resource Management Program projects must involve more than one military service. This legislation also creates flexibility to establish cooperative agreements (e.g., with public or private partners) for these projects.



Program and Location	Description and Applicable Project Types	Funding Match	External Partner	Activities Funded	Funding Cycle
<b>Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP)</b> (Off Base)	An OLDCC program which authorizes grants for projects that enhance installation resilience or military value by addressing deficiencies in community infrastructure. Eligible stormwater projects under this program include the enhancement or repair of non-DoD owned stormwater infrastructure.	30% by applying community	Required	Implementation	Annual
<b>Readiness and Environmental Protection and Integration (REPI) Program</b> (Off-Base)	DoD program which supports the use of public and private partnerships to combat impacts on installation operations and mission. REPI funding can be leveraged to purchase easements that would conserve land, protect wildlife habitat, sustain and enhance water quality, and provide for climate resilience.	Required (The amount of non-DoD match affects scoring criteria for competitive funds)	Required	Planning and Implementation	Annual
<b>Sentinel Landscapes Partnership</b> (Off-Base)	Designated Sentinel Landscapes Partnerships act as a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-government organizations who work with private landowners to strengthen military readiness, conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, and increase climate resilience. These partnerships leverage other non-DoD federal agencies to magnify the impact of DoD REPI, Natural Resources, and OLDCC funds.	Varies by partner	Required	Planning and Implementation	Varies by partner
<b>Defense Access Roads (DAR) Program</b> (Off-Base)	Part of the Federal-aid Highway program which funds highway improvements that mitigate unusual impact of a defense activity. Relevant eligible projects include repair or enhancement of highways or infrastructure to mitigate risks to flooding or sea-level rise.	Required (varies by project)	Required	Implementation	As needed <sup>2</sup>
<b>Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grants</b> (Off-Base)	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program to provide support to communities for implementing projects that reduce risk to natural disasters. Applies to hazard mitigation projects, including large-scale infrastructure projects.	Typically 25% non-Federal match <sup>3</sup>	Required	Planning and Implementation	Annual

Being aware of non-traditional DoD funding sources and those that can be combined with partner funds can magnify the number and impact of projects that meet multiple installation objectives for regulatory compliance and mission assurance. Installation planners, natural resource managers, and climate resilience staff should regularly collaborate to synergize their efforts and maximize the effectiveness of limited staff capacity, land resources, and financial assets. To learn more information about any of the resources and programs described in the above tables, see the “For More Information” section for links to their websites.

<sup>2</sup> DAR project funding is the responsibility of the military services through their Military Construction Programs.

<sup>3</sup> Cost-share requirements may be lower for some activities or applicants.

## For More Information

ERCIP: [https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/IE/FEP\\_ECIP.html](https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/IE/FEP_ECIP.html)

DoD Legacy Resource Management Program: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/legacy/home/>

OLDCC Military Installation Resource Management Program: <https://oldcc.gov/our-programs/military-installation-sustainability#block3>

DCIP: <https://oldcc.gov/defense-community-infrastructure-program-dcip#blocktitle>

REPI: <https://www.repi.mil/>

Sentinel Landscapes: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/> and <https://sentinellandscapes.org/about/federal-programs/>

DAR Program: [https://www.sddc.army.mil/sites/TEA/Functions/SpecialAssistant/DAR\\_Publications/SDDCTEA\\_DAR\\_Brochure\\_201304.pdf](https://www.sddc.army.mil/sites/TEA/Functions/SpecialAssistant/DAR_Publications/SDDCTEA_DAR_Brochure_201304.pdf)

FEMA BRIC Grants: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

NFWF grants: <https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant>

*Advancing Resilience for Defense Communities* (Section 6) for additional funding sources: <https://defensecommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Advancing-Resilience-for-Defense-Communities-A-Planning-Framework.pdf>