Chesapeake Land and Water Initiative
2019 Grant Program Update

Since 2017, the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network and the Land Trust Alliance have partnered through the Chesapeake Land and Water Initiative to support projects that accelerate land protection and enhanced stewardship on already-conserved land to directly benefit water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams.

We have been inspired and energized by the great work that has been done by our grantees to date. Now, after three years, the Chesapeake Land and Water Initiative’s competitive grant program is evolving, and we are announcing several changes for 2020 and beyond:

- Future grants will be made on an invitation-only basis, based on available resources.
- We will not hold an open Request for Proposals for future grants in Fall 2019 (as has been the case in the program’s first three years).
- The focus for any future grant funding will remain closely tied to land conservation/enhanced stewardship as a strategy and water quality improvement as an outcome.
- Detailed criteria for future grants may evolve alongside the Initiative’s program design and strategy.
- We anticipate that the timeline for supporting projects will remain similar to previous years, with future projects considered early in 2020 and grants awarded sometime in late spring.

We encourage partners and colleagues to learn more here about funded projects from 2017-2019. Throughout the coming year, we will continue to share the stories of these projects so that others in the Chesapeake watershed can learn from peers about the successes, challenges, and opportunities of working more strategically to enhance and restore water quality using land conservation as a core strategy.

And, as it has since its inception, the Land and Water Initiative will continue to develop and deliver resources and trainings that will help land trusts and partners conserve and restore important land for water quality, work more effectively with landowners, build new partnerships and collaborations, access the best science to target impact, and raise more funds for water-focused land conservation and stewardship.

Questions, suggestions, and ideas are always welcome and may be shared by contacting Jennifer Miller Herzog, Chesapeake Program Manager at the Land Trust Alliance and staff for the Land and Water Initiative, at jmillerherzog@lta.org or office/cell: 406-580-6410.