

Attachment I: Required Prioritization Criteria

Selected Block Grantees will be expected to implement the following prioritization criteria when deciding which entities or projects to fund:

- Prioritization for recipients of *general project scoping* support must include (but is not limited to):
 - Sub-grant applicant's experience and proven ability to turn general scoping into specific project development efforts,
 - Sub-grant applicant's status as a Minority or Women Led business or organization, and
 - The extent of engagement with historically under-represented groups within the sub-grant applicant's proposed scoping activities.
 - Proposed scope of work for *general project scoping* support must meet the Project Development definitions listed in *Attachment H: What is Project Development?*
- Prioritization for *specific project development* funds for any projects that do not yet have a 30% design must include (but is not limited to): Project Eligibility, Project Equity and Inclusion, Project Importance, and Project Efficiency defined below:
 - **Project Eligibility (must consider all of these):**
 1. Proposed *specific project development* work from a sub-grantee applicant must meet the Project Development definitions listed in *Attachment H: What is Project Development?*
 2. Project purpose, once developed, must be primarily to address nutrient and sediment pollution reduction.
 3. Proposed projects for development must be non-regulatory and meet the Project Types and Standards eligibility screen outlined in the Funding Policy in effect at time of grant execution. Other eligibility screenings like budget, recipient entities, landowner, and natural resource impacts may be discovered as part of the *specific project development* scope of work and do not need to be considered up front.
 4. Project must be identified in the Watershed Project Database, in a sector-based assessment or comparable strategic planning/assessment process (for example a Stormwater Master Plan, River Corridor Plan or Lake Watershed Action Plan), or otherwise be approved by the block grant holder as a result of *general project scoping* work.
 - **Project Equity and Inclusion (consider at least one of these):** Will the project improve localized water quality conditions and other co-benefits for an historically underrepresented group? Does the project engage with and allow decision-making from historically underrepresented groups? Does the project ensure no disproportionate negative impacts on an historically underrepresented group?
 - **Project Importance (consider at least one of these):** Will the proposed project lead to nutrient and sediment pollutant load reductions, other water quality improvements, and co-benefits (if information is readily available)? Does the

- project address a pollutant of concern in a stressed or impaired/altered sub-basin as mentioned in a Tactical Basin Plan? Is the project listed as a high priority in the Watershed Project Database or relevant sector-based assessment or comparable strategic planning/assessment process?
- **Project Efficiency (consider at least one of these):** Is the *specific project development* work proposed reasonable given the budget? Is the proposal cost-competitive in terms of \$/project developed?
 - Prioritization for *specific project development* funds to support work between 30% and 100% design phases or between 100% and implementation must also consider Project Eligibility, Project Equity and Inclusion, Project Importance, and Project Efficiency with greater weight given to projects that can provide quantifiable and cost-competitive pollution reduction benefit and cost estimates. Prioritization for these phases of *specific project development* work should also consider the following:
 - **Project Likelihood (consider at least one of these):** Will the project development work lead to project implementation? Does the project have good potential for a clear, qualified and competent O&M responsible party?
 - **Project Need (consider at least one of these):** Is there a demonstrated need for the funding support? Is there a justifiable reason for the time lag between the design phases and what additional tasks are needed to move the project towards the next phase? Are these additional tasks reasonable for the proposed budget?

Note that block grantees may choose to award a single sub-grant to an entity to support all tasks from *general project scoping* through *specific project development* support. In such a case all prioritization factors must be considered either upfront or the block grantee shall establish mandatory check-in points to ensure adequate progress is made and scope of work continues to meet eligibility and rank high against all prioritization criteria.