



REPI

READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM



Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program Challenge Frequently Asked Questions

General:

Q: I have a REPI Challenge project idea, but do not currently have a working relationship with the installation that would benefit from this work, where do I start?

A: The annual request for proposals (RFP) includes a Headquarters point of contact for each Military Service; we recommend reaching out to them as a first step. The RFP can be found here: <https://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/>.

Q: I am new to REPI, how do I request an account to access the REPI Challenge Online Portal?

A: You can download an account request form on the REPI Challenge Online Portal website at: <https://repi.osd.mil>. You will also find a user guide on this site to help walk you through the functionality of the portal.

Q: Where can I learn more about other programs that can support REPI installation resilience projects?

A: The REPI Office recently published the [REPI Resilience Project Funding Guide](#), a one-stop shop for installations and partners to learn about more than 25 federal and non-federal resilience and conservation programs that can support existing or new REPI installation resilience projects.

Q: Where can I learn more about developing REPI projects?

A: The REPI Program has reference materials on the website that can help provide guidance on how to develop a REPI project, including interactive online primers for both general REPI as well as resilience-focused projects (<https://www.repi.mil/Resources/Primers/>).

Eligibility:

Q: What legal authority(ies) can I leverage for a proposed REPI Challenge project?

A: The following three authorities can be used to advance REPI projects:

- **Section 2684a of title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C. § 2684a)** authorizes the Military Departments to enter into agreements with eligible entities to acquire real property interests or manage natural resources to: 1) prevent incompatible development; 2) preserve habitat; or 3) improve military installation resilience.
- **Section 670c-1 of title 16, United States Code (16 U.S.C. § 670c-1)**, the Sikes Act authority, authorizes the Military Departments to enter in cooperative agreements or interagency agreements to provide for the maintenance or improvement of natural resources. This



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authority may be leveraged to manage off-base natural resources to mitigate or remove current or anticipated challenges that could impact military activities or maintain or improve natural infrastructure in support of military installation resilience.

- **Section 2679 of title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C. § 2679)**, the Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) authority, authorizes the Military Departments to enter into agreements with eligible entities to provide, receive, or share installation-support services. Under REPI, this authority may be leveraged to fund state and local governments to conduct off-installation natural resource management or military installation resilience improvements that enhance mission effectiveness or create efficiencies.

Q: Who can submit a REPI Challenge proposal? How does this differ from the traditional annual REPI proposal process?

A: REPI Challenge proposals may be submitted by eligible entities; traditional annual REPI proposals are submitted by the Military Services. Eligible entities vary depending on the authority being leveraged for a REPI project:

- Eligible entities under 10 U.S.C. § 2684a may include a state or political subdivision of a state; or a private entity that has as its stated principal organizational purpose or goal the conservation, restoration, or preservation of land and natural resources, or a similar purpose or goal, as determined by the Secretary concerned.
- Eligible entities under 16 U.S.C. § 670c-1 may include states, local governments, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals through cooperative agreements, as well as heads of federal departments and agencies through interagency agreements.
- Eligible entities under 10 U.S.C. § 2679 may include a state or local government through an intergovernmental support agreement.

Q: Can REPI funding be used for projects on military installations?

A: No, REPI may only be used for off-installation activities that promote compatible land uses in the vicinity of DOD installations and ranges; enhance military installation resilience to climate change or extreme weather events; or relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions in support of key mission capabilities of strategic importance.

Q: Can REPI funding be used for grey infrastructure resilience projects?

A: No, REPI Program funding is not available to support grey infrastructure projects – we are focused on conservation, restoration, and nature-based solutions. That being said, there are other Federal programs that can be leveraged for grey infrastructure projects (e.g., Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) (<https://oldcc.gov>) to look into one of their multiple installation resilience programs, such as the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP)).



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Q: Can REPI funding be used for capacity projects?

A: Yes, REPI can fund capacity to help plan and design nature-based solution projects.

Q: Would projects focusing on the resilience of critical civilian infrastructure be considered competitive for a REPI Challenge proposal?

A: Yes. Congress has defined military installation resilience to include the resilience of essential transportation, logistical, or other necessary resources outside of the military installation that are necessary in order to maintain, improve, or rapidly reestablish installation mission assurance and mission-essential functions. Partners are encouraged to submit projects that leverage nature-based solutions to protect and sustain the climate resilience of these types of critical off-installation civilian infrastructure. This may include, but is not limited to, projects that provide wildfire risk reduction by managing fuels along critical energy transmission corridors that installations or ranges rely on, projects that seek to sustain critical aquifers, water sources, and/or protect water pumping stations supporting military facilities, and projects to protect critical transportation nodes from inland or coastal flooding. As with all REPI Challenge projects, partners must coordinate with the impacted military installation(s) and clearly articulate the benefits to assuring mission-essential functions that the project would provide. Support from the installation(s) should be included in the REPI Challenge proposal (e.g., letter of support from an installation commander).

Agreements and Partner Contributions:

Q: Do I have to have a cooperative agreement in place when I submit my REPI Challenge proposal?

A: You are not required to have a cooperative agreement (or similar partner agreement) in place when you submit your proposal; however, one must be in place to receive funding. You must begin negotiations with the appropriate Military Service to become a REPI Program partner while your full proposal is being reviewed. This will include negotiating a cooperative agreement or similar arrangement once you are selected to submit a full proposal. You will begin this negotiation without knowing the outcome of your REPI Challenge application.

Q: Does the partner submitting the REPI Challenge application need to be the funding partner?

A: No, the REPI Office does not require the primary funding partner to be the entity to submit the proposal.

Q: What level of commitment is needed from the funding partner(s) by the time of submitting a pre-proposal?



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A: You do not need a full/complete confirmation or commitment related to funding before submitting the pre-proposal; however, the more complete your information, the more competitive your proposal will be. You should have solidified partner contributions by the time you submit your full proposal if you are invited to complete one.

Q: What level of partner contribution is required for REPI Challenge?

A: Your project proposal should demonstrate at least a 50 percent partner cost share, with preference given to higher ratios, to include other federal, state, local, or private funds, in-kind contributions, bargain sales, technical assistance, land management and restoration activities, outreach and engagement, planning, etc.



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Q: What qualifies as an in-kind contribution?

A: In-kind contribution include services rendered by a non-DOD partner that advance the goals of a project and otherwise would not have occurred in the absence of the project. Examples include, but are not limited to: appraisals, title searches, easement or other document drafting, other real estate transaction services or real property, baseline resource assessments, real property interests, legal services, or other natural resource-related services or land improvement activities.

Q: Can I use previous acquisitions of properties using state or federal funds as a partner contribution?

A: The answer depends on whether these previous acquisitions have some direct relationship/applicability to the work proposed in the REPI Challenge project. Please ensure you include details on what those acquisitions were related to in your proposal. Any federal funding is acceptable as match so long as it is not previous REPI funding.

Q: Can I use previous REPI/REPI Challenge funding toward my partner contribution for my current year REPI Challenge proposal?

A: No, it is not appropriate to count previous REPI funding toward your partner contributions for proposed work. That being said, it is good to reference the existing work being done and how it may tie into the newly proposed work.

Q: Can REPI funding be matched with other federal programs?

A: Yes, REPI funding can be considered as a non-federal match for ANY other federal conservation or resilience program.

Coastal Resilience Projects/National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) Related:

Q: Do I have to apply through the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) if there is a coastal component to my project? What about if I received Challenge funding before?

A: There is a deliberate effort to shift coastal resilience projects that previously applied through the REPI Challenge to the NCRF. REPI is committed to allocating a portion of the Challenge funding to the NCRF each year and is working closely with NFWF to evaluate those proposals with a military benefit.

Q: Is REPI funding for coastal resilience projects only available through the National Coastal Resilience Fund?



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A: No, DOD installations can work through their Military Service chain of command to request funding through the annual REPI proposal process if the coastal resilience project does not align with the National Coastal Resilience Fund priorities.

Q: Would inland (i.e. not coastal) flooding be a climatic stressor that aligns with the REPI Challenge?

A: If the project falls within the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) map AND has primary threatened and endangered species fish/wildlife species benefits, it may be more appropriate to apply through NCRF.

Q: Do DOD partners need to have an existing REPI project or be a REPI Challenge applicant to apply to the National Coastal Resilience Fund?

A: No, partners do not need to have an existing REPI project or recent REPI Challenge application to apply. DOD encourages both existing and new coastal resilience projects to explore and apply for NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund consideration.

Q: Do National Coastal Resilience Fund projects that receive REPI funding need to support a military mission?

A: Yes, NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund projects that receive REPI funding must support the military mission at a local DOD installation or range. To learn more about how existing REPI projects are protecting military missions, visit the REPI website.

Q: What are the National Coastal Resilience Fund application requirements?

A: Applicants must submit a pre-proposal and full proposal for the National Coastal Resilience Fund. The Request for Proposals is typically released in March, with pre-proposals due in April and full proposals due in May. For updates on the application information, visit NFWF's website: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund>

Q: Which National Coastal Resilience Fund activities are eligible for REPI funding?

A: REPI funding is available for all four National Coastal Resilience Fund project categories, including Community Capacity Building and Planning, Site Assessment and Preliminary Design, Final Design and Permitting, and Restoration Implementation.

Q: Can partners apply for the National Coastal Resilience Fund if the project addresses multiple encroachment concerns such as coastal flooding and incompatible development?



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A: Partners should request funding from NFWF for all portions of the project that are eligible under the National Coastal Resilience Fund. The other project activities may be eligible for funding through the annual REPI Challenge or REPI proposal process.

Q: Are environmental cleanup activities eligible for NFWF funding?

A: Environmental remediation activities, such as hazardous waste cleanup, are not eligible under REPI or the National Coastal Resilience Fund.

Q: Can REPI funds serve as a non-federal match for National Coastal Resilience Fund projects?

A: REPI funds count as non-federal match for purposes of the National Coastal Resilience Fund; however, applicants should not assume in their proposal budget that they will receive REPI funds as part of an award. The National Coastal Resilience Fund strongly encourages applicants to demonstrate broad support for the project, but 8matching funds are not required. Applicants are also encouraged to seek additional partner contributions through sources other than REPI and NFWF to demonstrate broad support for the project.

Q: Does applying to the National Coastal Resilience Fund guarantee funding from REPI or NFWF?

A: No, applying to the NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund does not guarantee REPI or NFWF funding. However, it is viewed as an opportunity to attract new sources of funding beyond REPI.

For more information:

Q: Who do I contact with questions not answered here?

A: Technical questions related to the functionality of the database should be directed to: Garrett Powers, REPI Contract Database Support: (garrett.powers@ag.tamu.edu)

Questions on the REPI Challenge proposal process should be directed to:
Amy Caramanica, REPI Contract Support (amy.h.caramanica.ctr@mail.mil)
Matthew Stovall, REPI Contract Support (matthew.k.stovall3.ctr@mail.mil)
General REP questions, (osd.repi@mail.mil)