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PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM



Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program FY 2025 REPI Challenge Frequently Asked Questions

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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:

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

A: You can submit an account request form on the [REPI Challenge Online Portal website](#). You will also find a user guide that describes the navigation and functionality of the portal.

Q: Does the REPI Program host any webinars related to the REPI Challenge?

A: Yes, each year the REPI Program hosts a REPI Challenge Help Session webinar in May upon the release of the RFP. A recording of the webinar will be posted to the REPI Challenge online portal once available. In addition, the REPI Program hosts a webinar each year to spotlight REPI Challenge funding recipients. A recording of past webinars is available [here](#).

Q: What geospatial data is required for my proposal?

A: Relevant geospatial data will help the REPI Program Staff to evaluate your pre- and full proposals. Please provide a PDF map AND shapefiles of the parcel(s) of land in your project.



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Examples of relevant geospatial data that should be included with your proposal are target parcel or site boundaries or related parcel boundaries and relevant ecological data for the area immediately surrounding target parcels or sites. Do not attempt to upload large or irrelevant geospatial datasets like the following: topographic contours; parcel boundaries not targeted by the project; or ecological sites or land cover maps for large areas.

Q: Are there any documents required to submit with my proposals?

A: For full proposals seeking funding to improve military readiness at an installation not currently part of the REPI program, you are required to coordinate with the respective Military Service lead *prior* to submission of the proposal. If a project is invited to submit a full REPI Challenge proposal, the project must submit an endorsement letter from the Military Service with the cooperative agreement or similar arrangement, such as the installation commanding officer, to affirm support for the proposed activities. Contact information for Lead Service POCs can be found on the RFP.

If a REPI Challenge full proposal is seeking funding through other Federal programs, such as FEMA or the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), that full proposal must upload a PDF copy of the final proposal or any additional documentation they plan to submit for that application.

For compliance-related document requirements, see the [Environmental Planning and Conservation Law Requirements](#) section of the FAQs document.

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

A: The REPI Office 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.

Eligibility

Q: What legal authorities 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



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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 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?



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A: No, REPI Program funding is not available to support grey infrastructure projects – we are focused on conservation, restoration, and nature-based solutions. There are other Federal programs that can be leveraged for grey infrastructure projects. For example, the [Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation \(OLDCC\)](#) has programs that fund the construction of off-base built infrastructure to improve installation resilience, such as the Defense Community Infrastructure Program.

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 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 need 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?



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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?

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.

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 and hasn't already been counted as a partner contribution toward another REPI transaction. 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 (unused/unspent) 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. If prior REPI funding is being used as part of your REPI Challenge project, identify these funds as "other contributions" and provide an explanation. That said, it is good to reference the existing work being done and how it may tie into the newly proposed work.



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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.

Environmental Planning and Conservation Law Requirements

Q: What are the REPI Program's requirements for environmental planning and conservation law requirements?

A: Projects requesting funding for installation resilience under Phase 4 (Implementation and monitoring activities) must upload permitting and/or due diligence documents with their application. If this documentation is unavailable, the proposal must include a detailed timeline of when required permits are expected. Applicants should clearly explain any support needed by the Military Service to assist with completing all necessary permitting, environmental analysis, and cultural and historic property consultations. For the pre-proposal, applicant should provide the contact information of the installation personnel who are part of the project team and support the proposed project efforts.

The Military Services, where they are serving as the Action Proponent, are responsible for ensuring timely compliance with applicable environmental planning and conservation law requirements, including those under the environmental laws (National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act). The Military Services should refer to DoD, Military Department, and Service specific policies in carrying out environmental planning and compliance requirements. Military Services should coordinate with their partners to ensure they have identified the full scope of planning and compliance requirements that may affect the project execution timeline. The Military Services should work with partners to adjust timelines and budget to account for these requirements.

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:
Andrew Porth, Director of REPI Projects and Resources (andrew.m.porth.civ@mail.mil)
Matthew Stovall, REPI Contract Support (matthew.k.stovall3.ctr@mail.mil)
Grace Barnhill, REPI Contract Support (grace.m.barnhill2.ctr@mail.mil)



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Installation-specific questions on mission capabilities, priority lands, agreement areas, incompatible development concerns, and natural resource conservation needs should be directed to the appropriate Military Service contacts:

Army: Lorri Schwartz and Steve Sekscienski (lorri.a.schwartz.civ@army.mil, steven.w.sekscienski.civ@army.mil)

Marine Corps: Ryan Catlett (ryan.w.catlett@usmc.mil)

Navy: Tony Danesi, Girair Simon, and Jennifer Oelke-Farley (anthony.j.danesi.civ@us.navy.mil, girair.l.simon.civ@us.navy.mil, jennifer.l.oelkefarley.civ@us.navy.mil)

Air Force: Shawn Rose (shawn.rose.2@us.af.mil)