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Introduction

Reliable, long-term funding is an important component for the success of the actions outlined in Estuario's Plan. Funding will be required not only from Estuario's Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 320 funds through the National Estuary Program (NEP) but also from grants and partnerships. This Finance Strategy outlines the current funding and other support contributions, priorities, potential funding sources, and strategies to obtain the necessary funding.

Current Funding and Other Support

To implement Estuario's Plan, there are two sets of costs. The first set of costs is associated with funding Estuario staff and office space, which is currently estimated at \$1.3 million per year with incremental yearly increases for the cost of living, pending the Board of Directors approval. The second set of costs is related to implementing the proposed actions, which is estimated to be more than \$3.3 billion. Full implementation of the actions can only be achieved with additional funding, and does not represent a commitment from Estuario and its partners if funding is not obtained.

A primary source of funding is the annual CWA Section 320 funds allocation administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under the NEP. These funds are congressionally appropriated and subject to approval by the President each fiscal year. Estuario has received this funding consistently since its designation as an NEP in 1994 with an allocation of approximately \$850,000 per year. The CWA Section 320 funding has a one-to-one federal matching requirement. Since 2017, Estuario has received the matching funds from the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA).

Estuario also accesses funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF); particularly leveraging the forgivable portion of the program to support priority water quality investments. In addition to its financing role, Estuario strategically utilizes SRF funding; especially for projects addressing emerging contaminants, as a mechanism to incentivize coordinated action among responsible agencies and jurisdictions. By aligning SRF resources with infrastructure needs, Estuario helps advance the reconstruction of aged, or collapsed wastewater and stormwater systems that are negatively impacting water bodies withing the estuarine system.

In addition, for a five-year period (2023-2028), Estuario secured supplemental funding through the Investment and Infrastructure Jobs Act (IIJA). Each NEP was awarded \$909,800 annually under this program, for a total of \$4,549,000.

In July 2009, the governor of Puerto Rico enacted Law No. 48, creating a Special Fund for the San Juan Bay Estuario (SJBE). The fund represents a valuable and flexible local funding mechanism that strengthens Estuario's financial resilience by providing locally generated resources that can be used to match federal funds, support reimbursement-based programs, and leverage additional external funding. The fund receives revenues from three types of voluntary contributions:

1. Individual taxpayer donations through a checkbox on the income tax form – Each year the Treasury Department includes a checkbox on the income tax forms so people can donate funds. Through 2024, this mechanism has generated over \$586,000.
2. Special SJBE license plates – Introduced in 2012, with \$20 of each \$30 purchase directed to the fund. A second edition of this plate was launched in 2024. To date, this initiative has raised more than \$80,000.
3. Voluntary contributions from cruise ship passengers — As authorized under Law No. 48.

Funds collected are periodically deposited by the Puerto Rico Treasury Department into a dedicated bank account in Estuario's name. These moneys have proven crucial for obtaining funds, such from the SRF, which work on the basis of reimbursement.

Estuario operates as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which further enhances its financial model by enabling the organization to leverage diverse and complementary funding streams. This structure allows Estuario to directly access competitive grant opportunities from federal and philanthropic sources, including from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other sources. It also enables the organization to secure contributions from corporate and individual donors, further diversifying its revenue base.

Funding Priorities

The highest priorities for funding are the infrastructure improvements outlined in the *Maintain and Improve Aging and Failing Gray and Green Infrastructure that Negatively Impacts Water and Bottom Sediment Quality* action plan. SJBE is a vital ecological and economic resource for Puerto Rico, yet it faces significant challenges due to aging and failing infrastructure. There is a critical need to maintain, improve, and expand both gray and green infrastructure, which are essential to safeguard and improve water and sediment quality and the estuarine ecosystem, as well as protect public health by providing communities with essential infrastructure. In addition, with an increase in extreme weather events and sea level rise, there is a need for investment in more resilient infrastructure to provide reliable sanitary and stormwater treatment. Some infrastructure improvements and modifications are being accomplished with funding made available in the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria. However, billions of dollars are needed to complete the activities outlined in the action plan.

Another funding priority is evaluating Estuario's proposed expanded study area to better understand all the contributions to the SJBE system. The current Estuario study area encompasses the areas immediately adjacent to the estuary, and the watersheds associated with the major rivers and streams (río Grande de Loíza, río Bayamón, and their tributaries) that flow into the estuary are excluded. Funding will be required for Estuario and its partners to gather data and map potential sources that impact water quality, identify critical habitats and species, conduct a risk assessment, and engage additional municipalities and stakeholders. This information is critical for the Estuario Management Conference and Board of Directors to make a determination about whether the study area should be modified in a future plan revision.

Short-term Resource Needs

In the short-term, within two years of Estuario Plan adoption, the resource needs are largely for data collection, assessments, database development, and communications activities to provide baseline information to support implementation of longer-term plan activities. The short-term needs include:

- Conduct a needs assessment for areas that lack sanitary sewer systems.
- Determine which wastewater treatment facilities need upgrades to improve nutrient removal.
- Identify and connect illicit discharges to the sanitary sewer system.
- Conduct a needs assessment for areas that lack adequate stormwater systems.
- Conduct a baseline assessment of existing riparian corridors.
- Develop and distribute technical guides and resources related to green infrastructure features.
- Assess current sediment sources and sedimentation rates.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing land use data.
- Identify locations for the development of public docks and other facilities.
- Prepare guidelines for incorporating alternative transportation infrastructure into development plans.
- Develop, maintain, and update the data dashboard on the Estuario website.
- Identify gaps that need to be filled to better predict harmful algal blooms.
- Gather baseline data on key species and habitats.
- Identify locations of critical habitats including land needs and conservation.
- Organize debris clean-up events at specific sites.
- Identify hotspots where fats, oils, and greases are the main issue in wastewater infrastructure.
- Develop an inventory of existing docks and watercraft facilities including compliance status.
- Evaluate regional risk assessment results and prepare a vulnerability analysis.
- Expand monitoring throughout the SJBE system.
- Assess current regulations and policies, and how to better enforce those regulations and policies.
- Develop and distribute educational materials in way that is engaging and accessible to a variety of audiences.
- Engage and empower community leaders to organize and activate their local community to participate in conservation, restoration, reconstruction, and/or remediation projects.
- Implement innovative approaches to educate and raise awareness about the evolution of the SJBE.
- Incorporate strategies for content creation to increase viewership and public engagement through a variety of platforms.
- Develop inventory of existing access to the beach and rivers and identify priority areas to add access to waterbodies and beaches within the SJBE watershed.

Long-term Resource Needs

Long-term resource needs, starting three years after Estuario Plan adoption through the ten-year Plan period, are for implementation of larger scale projects and longer term programs and efforts.

- As noted above, the most important long-term resource need is increased funding for infrastructure improvements and expansion. Improved infrastructure would help reduce nutrients, sediments, and other pollutants to improve water quality for ecosystems and public health. The infrastructure needs are extensive and will require multi-agency and jurisdictional partnerships and funding from a

variety of sources. These resources will be required for Estuario, agencies, municipalities, academia, and local organizations to implement the plan actions as discussed in the *Maintain and Improve Aging and Failing Gray and Green Infrastructure that Negatively Impacts Water and Bottom Sediment Quality* action plan.

- Resources are required to enhance, restore, conserve, and create critical habitat throughout the watershed to support species, improve water quality, and provide increased resilience. Details about the resources needed for ecosystem restoration and conservation are included in the *Ensure Functioning Ecosystems* action plan and supporting Habitat Restoration Plan.
- Additional resources are required to continue fully engage citizens, visitors, and decision-makers on the importance of the SJBE system. Public participation and engagement are essential to successful implementation of plan actions and for sustained stewardship of the SJBE system. Details on the resources needed for education and outreach are included in the *Promote a Culture of Integrated Stewardship of the Estuarine System, Its Watershed, and Related Ecosystems* action plan and supporting Communications and Outreach Strategy.
- Recurring funding will be required to support a comprehensive monitoring network for the SJBE. This funding would support existing monitoring, fill in monitoring gaps, and gather data in the proposed expanded study area. Information about the monitoring needs are outlined in the Monitoring Plan. In addition, funding is needed to support monitoring to validate the effectiveness of infrastructure investments.

Estuario Plan Strategies and Implementors

In 2022, Estuario completed their five-year Strategic Plan¹, which included potential strategies to enhance the financial stability of the partnership. Table 1 summarizes these strategies, the strategy implementors, and proposed timelines.

Table 1. Estuario Strategies for Plan Implementation

Strategies	Strategy Implementors	Timeline
1. Develop compelling materials and presentations, highlighting regional benefits of Estuario in the past and in the future and demonstrable improvements in water quality. Clearly identify what needs to be done in the coming 5 years to ultimately achieve Estuario’s clean water goals.	Estuario staff	0-2 years
2. Adopt a fundraising goal, such as reserves necessary for operational support for at least one year and/or for a specific project or program.	Board of Directors	0-2 years
3. Assess whether other partner organizations participating on the Board of Directors, Policy Committee. and Implementation Committee are willing to help meet the fundraising goal by contributing a defined amount each year.	Policy and Implementation Committees	0-2 years

¹ San Juan Bay Estuary Partnership. 2022. Strategic Plan 2022-2027. Prepared by CoastWise Partners for the Corporation for the Conservation of the San Juan Bay Estuary.

Strategies	Strategy Implementors	Timeline
4. Develop and adopt a formal written agreement between all parties committing to annual contributions to the best of their ability.	Policy Committee	3-5 years
5. Keep the Board of Directors, Policy Committee, and Implementation Committee informed of current and potential future sources of funding as well as opportunities for seeking funding from, and in partnership with, other affiliated organizations and/or government agencies.	Executive Director	Annually
6. Establish a Fundraising Subcommittee, consisting of at least one member from the Board of Directors, Policy Committee, and other stakeholders, to develop a Fundraising Plan. Elements of a Fundraising Plan could include consideration of stewardship events; Act 282 funding to support Estuario including a specialty license plate; non-governmental and private sources; environmental regulatory fines directed to Estuario; and other fundraising strategies that have been effective for other NEPs.	Board of Directors	0-2 years
7. Request that USEPA headquarters conduct a Financing Workshop for Estuario partners and the Fundraising Committee, to provide additional ideas and discussion.	Executive Director	0-2 years
8. Consider hiring or contracting fundraising expertise to support the Fundraising Subcommittee.	Executive Director	0-2 years
9. Continue to keep U.S. Congress, the Legislature of Puerto Rico and municipalities apprised of the Estuario’s yearly progress.	Executive Director	Annually
10. Enlist the assistance and support of key stakeholders in implementing the Fundraising Plan.	Board of Directors	3-5 years

Sources of Funding

This section outlines potential funding sources that Estuario and its partners can use to implement plan actions and activities.

Estuario Special Fund

As noted earlier, the special fund created by Law No.48 has provided a steady source of funding for Estuario’s efforts. There are potential opportunities that can be explored to increase the funding received through this fund such as:

- Increase the cost of the license plate – The license plate currently costs \$30 of which \$20 goes to the special fund (two-thirds of the cost). If the cost could be increased, even by \$5, an additional \$3 per license plate could be added to the fund.
- Campaign to promote the tax form donation option – Estuario could create a campaign for tax season each year to educate residents about SJBE’s importance to Puerto Rico and encourage donations to support the restoration efforts.
- Campaign to high-impact sectors – Estuario could also create an outreach campaign focused on the high-impact sectors (such as hotels, port facilities, and restaurants) asking them to contribute to the special fund. These sectors rely on the SJBE for their income and their support would help to restore and protect the system.

- Expand to include recurring contributions – The state agencies and municipalities with the SJBE study area could provide annual, recurring contributions to the fund in support of Estuario’s activities. Other NEPs have implemented similar contributions and the funding amount could be determined based on the budgets of each agency and municipality.

State and Municipal Funding Sources

Successful implementation of the Estuario Plan actions will require funding from the state and municipal partners. Table 2 outlines potential funding sources from state government agencies, the estimated budget for fiscal year 2026, and the Estuario Plan actions that could be funded. The state agencies and municipalities also have planned capital improvement projects within the study area that would support achievement of plan objectives. **Table 3** summarizes the state agency projects with the associated costs and Estuario Plan actions.

Table 2. Potential Funding Sources for Actions from State Government Agencies

Government Agency/ Public Corporation	Legal Basis	Selected Programs that Could Finance Actions	Estimated Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (Thousands \$)	Related Actions
Authority for the Financing of Industrial, Touristic, Education, Health and Environmental Control Facilities	Law No. 121 of 1977	Assistance and Financing (Educational or Environmental Control Projects)	Unknown	MI-02, MI-06, MI-22
Puerto Rico Infrastructure and Finance Authority	Law No. 44 of 1988	Administrative and Financing Assistance to Public Corporations Program	Unknown	MI-02, MI-06, MI-22
PRASA	Law No. 40 of 1945, Law No. 328 of 1998	Administration, Operation, and Maintenance of Aqueducts and Sewer Systems Program	\$1,213,690	MI-02, MI-03, MI-06, MI-22
Puerto Rico Department of Education	Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the new Organic Law for the Department of Education (Law No. 149), Law No. 230 of 1942, Law No. 51 of 1996	Community Schools Program	\$5,205,094	IS-01
Puerto Rico Department of Housing	Law No. 97 of June 1972, as amended, The Organic Law of the Department of Housing	Community Rehabilitation Administration Housing Bank Finance Agency; Housing Development and Improvement Administration	\$2,276,586	MI-22

Government Agency/ Public Corporation	Legal Basis	Selected Programs that Could Finance Actions	Estimated Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (Thousands \$)	Related Actions
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources	Law No. 97 of June 1972, Reorganization Plan No. 1 of December 1993	Natural Resources Administration; Solid Waste Authority	\$300,885	MI-03, MI-10, MI-22, MI-23, MI-24, MI-25, MI-27, WM-01, WM-02, WM-03, WM-04, WM-07, WM-09, FE-02, FE-06, FE-12, FE- 13, FE-14, FE-15, FE-16, FE-22, IS- 12, IS-03, IS-13
Puerto Rico Department of Recreation and Sports	Law No. 126 of June 1980, as amended	Physical Infrastructure Program; Planning and Technical Sports Training Program	\$59,691	FE-16, IS-12
Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works	Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Law No. 6 of 1952, Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1971	Property Acquisition and Administration Program; Design and Reconstruction of Roads Program; Beautification and Ornateness of Community and Touristic Areas Program; Maintenance and Conservation of Roads Program; Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority (PRHTA) - Operation and Maintenance of Highways Program	\$202,976	MI-01, MI-06, MI-22, MI-25, WM-04
Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA)	Law No. 83 of 1941, Law No. 57 of 1979	Technical and Administrative Support Program; Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Program	\$3,408,485	WM-07, WM-08, MI-03, MI-06,
Puerto Rico Ports Authority	Law No. 17 of 1955, Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1971	Administration and Conservation of Marine Facilities Program	\$84,265	MI-27, WM-09, FE-06
Puerto Rico Tourism Company	Law No. 10 of June 1970, as amended, Reorganization Plan No. 4 of June 1994	Physical Tourist Facilities Development Program; Tourism Promotion and Marketing	\$152,211	IS-13

Table 3. State Agency Capital Improvement Projects to Related to Estuario Plan Actions

Project Description	Cost	Similar or Complementary Actions
PREPA²	-	-
LUMA Distribution Automation	\$1,120 million	
LUMA Advanced Metering Infrastructure	\$877 million	
LUMA Streetlighting	\$1,006 million	FE-03
LUMA Vegetation Clearing	\$1,200 million	WM-13, WM-14
LUMA Distribution Pole and Conductor Replacement	\$669 million	
LUMA Transmission Line Rebuild	\$3,326 million	
LUMA Substation Rebuild	\$2,223 million	
LUMA Distribution Line Rebuild	\$4,070 million	
Genera Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	\$786 million	
Genera Grid Support Generation (Black Start and Peaker Units)	\$911 million	
Genera Replace Critical Components	\$124 million	
Genera Improve Fuel Efficiency	\$74 million	
HydroCo Guajataca Dam	\$566 million	
HydroCo Early Warning System ("EWS")	\$100 million	IS-07
Subtotal PREPA	\$17,052 million	
PRASA³	-	-
Carraízo Dredging	\$111 million	MI-19
Sanitary/Water Distribution System Buena Vista Santurce	\$164 million	MI-04
Rehabilitation Guaynabo WTP	\$144 million	MI-04
Rehabilitation Superaqueduct WTP	\$125 million	MI-04
Rehabilitation Sergio Cuevas WTP	\$113 million	MI-04
Super Aqueduct Microgrid	\$98 million	MI-04
Carolina WWTP	\$97 million	MI-04
Subtotal PRASA	\$852 million	
PRHTA⁴	-	-
Bicycle Path	\$5.8 million	MI-31, IS-10, IS-11
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – Constructora Nieves, Inc.	\$3.3 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – Unique Builders, Inc.	\$2.5 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – Novel Construction LLC	\$4.1 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – NC Contractors & Rental, Inc	\$5.3 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – Martel Inc. Systems Integrators	\$0.827 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – HDT Group Corp.	\$1.9 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – Mitor Corp.	\$5.2 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – PR Asphalt	\$0.200 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09

² PREPA. February 2025 Fiscal Plan for the Puerto Rico Power Authority. As certified by the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico on February 6, 2025.

³ Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. 2025 Fiscal Plan. Fiscal Years 2025 to 2039. As certified by the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, May 30, 2025.

⁴ Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority. PRHTA Reporting April 2024. As certified by the Financial Oversight Management Board for Puerto Rico, April 20, 2024.

Project Description	Cost	Similar or Complementary Actions
Emergency Repairs Works Hurricane Fiona – Anibal Díaz Construction	\$1.1 million	AA-05, AA-07, AA-09
Subtotal PRHTA	\$30.227 million	

Federal Sources

Federal funding represents a critical component of Estuario’s financial strategy for implementing its Plan. A wide range of federal funding programs provide opportunities to support plan implementation through grants, cooperative agreements, and technical assistance.

Table 4 summarizes the key federal funding opportunities relevant to Esutario’s priorities including program objectives, estimated funding levels for Fiscal Year 2026, and alignment with specific Estuario Plan actions.

Table 4. Potential Funding Sources for Actions from Federal Assistance Programs

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
10.410	Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans and Loan Guarantees	Assist very low, low-income, and moderate-income households obtain modest, decent, safe, and sanitary housing for use as a permanent residence in rural areas.	\$26 million	MI-06, MI-22
10.902	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA	Soil and Water Conservation	Provide conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations through a national network of locally-respected, technically-skilled, professional conservationists and assist them in conserving, improving and sustaining our natural resources and environment. This is not a grant program; assistance is provided through expert technical advice and work products.	\$100 million	FE-22, IS-01
10.904	NRCS, USDA	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention	Provide technical and financial assistance in carrying out works of improvement to protect, develop, and use the land and water resources in watersheds. The assistance is provided to state and local agencies and tribal governments, to prevent damage caused by erosion, floodwater, and sediment; further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water; and advance the conservation and utilization of the land.	\$414.5 million	FE-22
10.912	NRCS, USDA	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible national goals and optimize environmental benefits on eligible land with farmers, ranchers, and non-industrial private forest land owners. It is a voluntary program using partnerships with local, state, tribal and federal agencies, producer associations, and nonprofit organizations to provide flexible technical and financial assistance to implement and maintain structural, vegetative, and land management conservation practices, including practices related to organic production.	\$3 million	FE-24, MI-18, MI-37, AA-04
11.419	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce	Coastal Zone Management Administration Awards	Support projects aimed at developing a science-based, multi-dimensional approach that will allow for the maintenance or improvement of environmental quality while at the same time allowing for economic growth.	\$85.7 million	MI-17, WM-09, FE-16, IS-12, IS-01, IS-13

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
11.427	NOAA, Department of Commerce	Saltonstall Kennedy Program	Promote and develop U.S. fisheries through marketing, research, and development, creating a dedicated fund from import duties on fishery products to support the U.S. industry's needs.	\$6 million	FE-10, FE-16
11.439	NOAA, Department of Commerce	Marine Mammal Data Program	Nondiscretionary funding under this authorization provides support to state and federal agencies for the collection and analysis of information on marine mammals that occur in U.S. waters and interact with state and federal managed fisheries and other marine resources. Discretionary funds may be announced in the Federal Register under competitive programs to undertake research in subjects which are relevant to the protection and conservation of marine mammals.	\$9.7 million	FE-02
11.463	NOAA, Department of Commerce	Habitat Conservation	Provide grants and cooperative agreements for habitat conservation activities including coastal and marine habitat restoration and protection. Projects are funded to carry out public policy pertaining to protection and restoration of the nation's wetlands, rivers, and other coastal habitats, pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act; Endangered Species Act (ESA); Marine Mammal Protection Act; Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; Inflation Reduction Act; Oil Pollution Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; CWA; and other legislation.	\$166 million	AA-02, FE-14,
11.473	NOAA, Department of Commerce	Office for Coastal Management	Help coastal communities prepare for and recover from extreme weather events, coastal hazards, and changing ocean conditions. Awarded projects advance resilience strategies that use science-based solutions, demonstrate regional coordination, and create economic and environmental benefits for coastal communities.	\$200 million	IS-13, WM-01, WM-03
14.218	Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing And Urban Development (HUD)	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)/ Entitlement Grants	Develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income. Each activity funded must meet one of the program's national objectives by benefiting low- and moderate-income families; aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or meeting other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available.	\$2,004 million	MI-01, MI-02, Mi-03, MI-06, WM-01, WM-03, IS-03, IS-12, IS-13

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
14.233	Community Planning and Development, HUD	CDBG Disaster Recovery	Fund a broad range of recovery activities, including but not limited to, housing rehabilitation or reconstruction, new housing construction, repairing roads and bridges, repairing water and wastewater facilities, providing assistance to affected business owners, job training and workforce development.	\$12,002 million	IS-03, MI-04, AA-07, AA-09, AA-10
14.248	Office of Community Planning and Development, HUD	CDBG/Section 108 Loan Guarantees	Provide communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and large-scale physical development projects.	\$2.7 million	MI-01, MI-02, MI-03, MI-06, WM-01, WM-03, IS-12, IS-03, IS-13
15.605	U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service (USFWS), DOI	Sport Fish Restoration	Fund support activities designed to restore, conserve, manage, or enhance sport fish populations; the public use and benefits from these resources; and activities that provide boat access to public waters. Sport fisheries research and management activities; boating access development and maintenance; aquatic resource education activities; lake construction and maintenance; land acquisition; technical assistance; planning; habitat enhancement; administration; coordination; and hatchery construction are eligible under the act.	\$455 million	FE-16, IS-15
15.611	USFWS, DOI	Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education and Safety	Provide grants to state, commonwealth, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies for projects to restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitat. Projects also include providing public use and access to wildlife resources; hunter education and safety; the development and management of shooting ranges, and the promotion of hunting and recreational shooting.	\$927.5 million	IS-03, IS-12, IS-13
15.614	USFWS, DOI	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration	Provide competitive matching grants to coastal states for coastal wetlands conservation projects. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Section 305, Title III, Public Law 101-646 U.S.C. 3954) established the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands in coastal states.	\$20 million	IS-03, IS-12, IS-13

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
15.615	USFWS, DOI	Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	<p><u>Traditional Conservation Grants:</u> Support the development and implementation of state programs to conserve and recover threatened and endangered species under USFWS jurisdiction and monitor candidate, at-risk, and recently delisted species.</p> <p><u>Conservation Planning Assistance Grants:</u> Provide funding to states to support the development of new habitat conservation plans (HCP), renewal or amendment of existing HCPs, and development of new conservation benefit agreements (CBA). Funding may support the administration of approved and permitted CBAs as well. Funding supports development and planning activities such as document preparation, public outreach, baseline species surveys, habitat assessments, and inventories. Preparation of environmental review documents that may be needed under the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act is also an eligible use of funds.</p> <p><u>Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) Grants:</u> Promote state and federal cooperation in listed species conservation by leveraging funds to acquire specific parcels of land, through fee simple or conservation easement, in support of USFWS-approved recovery plans and outlines.</p> <p><u>HCP Land Acquisition Grants:</u> Designed to reduce conflicts between the conservation of listed species and competing land uses on specific parcels of land associated with approved and permitted HCPs. Provides matching grants to states in support of land acquisition projects that will conserve species habitat in perpetuity through fee simple acquisition or the acquisition of permanent conservation easements.</p>	\$40 million	FE-02, FE-12, FE-13, FE-15
15.634	USFWS, DOI	State Wildlife Grants (SWG)	Help state, territory, and District of Columbia fish and wildlife agencies design and implement strategic, proactive conservation programs. Formula SWG Program funds, pooled with recipient matching resources, enable these recipients to identify, study, and conserve species deemed most in need of conservation. Competitive SWG Program funds and matching resources typically support large-scale conservation projects involving many partners.	\$62 million	FE-02, FE-12, FE-13, FE-15

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
15.657	USFWS, DOI	Endangered Species Recovery Implementation	<p><u>Recovery Implementation:</u> Provide federal financial assistance to secure endangered or threatened species information, undertake restoration actions that will lead to delisting of a species, help prevent extinction of a species, or aid in the recovery of species.</p> <p><u>Recovery Challenge:</u> Provide federal financial assistance to eligible, non-federal longstanding and new partners working on high priority recovery actions as identified by USFWS in recovery plans, strategies, or outlines for ESA endangered and threatened species.</p> <p><u>State of the Birds:</u> Provide federal financial assistance to address the crises and challenges confronting birds by funding projects supporting the recovery of bird species listed under the ESA.</p>	\$24 million	FE-02, FE-12, FE-13, FE-15, IS-01
15.916	National Park Service (NPS), DOI	Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning	Provide financial assistance to the states and their political subdivisions' projects that are included in Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans and acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities for the public.	\$600 million	IS-01, IS-12, IS-03
20.219	Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation	Recreational Trails Program	Provide funds to the states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses.	\$68 million	IS-01, IS-12, IS-03
20.268	Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)	Fund projects and programs that reduce transportation related emissions air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas for ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter, though provision is made for States without air quality issues.	\$2,746 million	WM-16
66.001	USEPA	Air Pollution Control Program Support	Assist state, tribal, municipal, intermunicipal, and interstate air pollution control agencies in planning, developing, establishing, improving, and maintaining adequate programs for the continuing prevention and control of air pollution, and/or in the implementation of national primary and secondary air quality standards. The continuing activities funded under Section 105 include: analysis and planning for attainment and maintenance of NAAQS; emission reduction measures; development and operation of air quality monitoring networks, and other air program activities.	\$8.3 million	WM-16
66.419	USEPA	Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support	Assist states (including territories and the District of Columbia), Indian Tribes qualified under CWA Section 518(e), and interstate agencies in establishing and maintaining adequate measures for prevention and control of surface and ground water pollution from both point and nonpoint sources.	\$25.8 million	MI-02, MI-03, MI-10, MI-12, MI-17, WM-02, WM-03

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
66.454	USEPA	Water Quality Management Planning	Assist states (including territories and the District of Columbia), Regional Public Comprehensive Planning Organizations, and Interstate Organizations in carrying out water quality management planning. Funds are allotted by state in accordance with Section 604(b) of the CWA and are used to determine the nature and extent of point and nonpoint sources of water pollution and to develop water quality management plans.	\$28.5 million	MI-12, MI-17, IS-01
66.456	USEPA	National Estuary Program	Provide focused support for NEPs to address priority problems identified by NEP management conferences and document accomplishments and environmental results. NEP efforts address such problems as: (1) impacts on estuarine water quality and living resources of nutrients, toxics (chemical, heavy metals), pathogen contamination, and sediment attributable to excess loadings and non-point stormwater runoff; e.g., excess nutrient loadings can result in nutrient over-enrichment and hypoxic conditions in estuarine waterbodies; (2) habitat loss/degradation; (3) risks to plan implementation due to recurring extreme weather impacts, and adaptation strategies to build regional, local, and tribal officials' capacity to address impacts from recurring extreme weather on NEP watersheds, and to promote community resilience and activities that build capacity include conducting vulnerability assessments and developing and implementing adaptation strategies and programs; and 4) need for decision makers in estuarine communities to implement sustainable land use, green infrastructure, and low-impact development best practices.	\$24 million	IS-01
66.458	USEPA	Clean Water State Revolving Fund	Provide a long-term source of state financing for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and implementation of other water quality management activities.	\$2,333 million	MI-12, MI-17, IS-01
66.460	USEPA	Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants	Assist states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and qualified Indian Tribes and intertribal consortia in implementing USEPA-approved Section 319 nonpoint source management programs. USEPA's awards grants that implement a grant recipient's nonpoint source management program plan, particularly the development and implementation of watershed-based plans, focusing on watersheds with water quality impairments caused by nonpoint sources, which result in improved water quality in impaired waters.	\$20 million	MI-02, MI-12

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
66.461	USEPA	Wetlands Protection: Development Grants	Assist state, territory, tribal, and/or local government agencies in building programs which protect, manage, and restore wetlands. The primary focus of the grants is to build state, territory, and tribal wetland programs. A secondary focus is to build local (e.g., county or municipal) programs. USEPA has identified the following four core elements for improving the ability to protect, manage, and restore wetlands: (1) monitoring and assessment; (2) voluntary restoration and protection; (3) regulatory approaches including CWA 401 certification; and (4) wetland-specific water quality standards.	\$13 million	FE-06
66.605	USEPA	Performance Partnership Grants (PPG)	PPGs are the cornerstone of the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS), which aims to strengthen partnerships and build a results-based management system. PPGs allow states and tribes to combine eligible categorical State and Tribal Assistance Grants into a single grant with a single budget and work plan. USEPA's overarching goal is to optimize the leveraging power of PPGs to focus strategically on the joint priorities of USEPA and recipients to achieve environmental outcomes.	\$1 million	MI-01, MI-22
66.708	USEPA	Pollution Prevention (P2) Grants Program	Provide technical assistance (e.g., information, training and tools) to businesses/facilities on source reduction/P2 techniques to help them adopt and implement source reduction/P2 approaches that may increase the development, adoption, and market penetration of sustainable manufacturing and processing practices and greener products; identify, develop, document, and share source reduction/P2 best management practices and innovations so the information generated may inform future technical assistance and encourage practices and innovations that may be replicated by others. The technical assistance provided must use P2/source reduction techniques to reduce and/or eliminate pollution from air, water, and/or land prior to performing recycling, reuse, clean up, or disposal activities.	\$13.9 million	IS-01
66.950	USEPA	National Environmental Education Training Program	Train a cadre of educational professionals who have the knowledge, skills and tools to develop and deliver high-quality environmental education in formal and non-formal settings and to strengthen the environmental education field.	\$2.4 million	IS-01

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
66.956	USEPA	Targeted Airshed Grant Program	Reduce air pollution in the nation's nonattainment areas with the highest levels of ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) ambient air concentrations. Fund activities in applicable nonattainment areas that will achieve documentable emissions reductions that contribute to ozone and/or direct PM2.5 concentrations in the applicable nonattainment areas. Pollutants contributing to ozone concentrations are nitrous oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Pollutants contributing to PM2.5 concentrations are direct PM2.5 and PM2.5 precursors NOx, VOCs, sulfur dioxide (SO2), and ammonia.	\$67 million	WM-16
66.958	USEPA	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA)	Accelerate investment in our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy water and wastewater projects of national and regional significance. Selected projects shall demonstrate the broad range of project types that the WIFIA program can finance including wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, and water recycling projects.	\$5.8 million	MI-02, MI-03
-	FEMA	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Funds after a presidentially declared disaster event. Calculated based on the damage assessed from the disaster event. Funding will support a variety of hazard mitigation projects. Projects must be included on the Local Mitigation Plan to be eligible for funding. More information can be found at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/hazard-mitigation .	Varies depending on event	MI-06, MI-07, MI-09
-	FEMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance	Competitive program that provides funding to state, territory, and local governments and federally recognized Tribal Nations. Funds are used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. Requires state, local, federally recognized tribal governments, and U.S. territories to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for hazard mitigation assistance projects. More information can be found at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/flood-mitigation-assistance/about .	\$235 million	MI-06, MI-07, MI-09

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
	FEMA	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	Hazard mitigation program that makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized Tribal Nations, and local governments for hazard mitigation activities. These activities include upgrading and modernizing the nation's infrastructure against the growing risks to communities and the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities to promote resilience for natural hazards. More information can be found at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities .	\$1,000 million	MI-06, MI-07, MI-09
-	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Environmental Infrastructure Program	Provide financial or technical assistance for the design and construction of water-related environmental infrastructure that is publicly-owned and operated. Local and state governments, tribes, and non-profit organizations (with support from the affected local government) are eligible for funding. Additional details can be found on the USACE website at https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Environmental-Infrastructure/ .	To be determined based on appropriations	MI-02, MI-06, MI-22
-	USACE	Silver Jackets	Bring together interagency teams that facilitate solutions to flood risk priorities. Bring together state, federal, and sometimes tribal and local agencies to learn from one another and work together to reduce risk from floods through shared knowledge. Each participating agency uses its own programs and resources within the constraints of available budgets and agency authorities. Additional details can be found at https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Silver-Jackets/About-Silver-Jackets/ .	Technical assistance only	FE-22
-	U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)	Public Works	Help distressed communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. This program enables communities to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, generate local investment, and create or retain long-term jobs through land acquisition, development, and infrastructure improvement projects that establish or expand industrial or commercial enterprises. More information is posted at https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/public-works .	Grants awarded between \$100,000 and \$30 million	MI-01, MI-02, MI-04, MI-06, MI-07, MI-09, MI-26
-	EDA	Disaster Recovery	Provide disaster recovery to American communities that received major disaster declarations due to hurricanes, wildfires, severe storms and flooding, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. More information is posted at https://www.eda.gov/funding/funding-opportunities/category?category=266322 .	\$1,450 million (for events in calendar years 2023 and 2024)	MI-02, MI-06, MI-07, AA-05

Assistance Listing Number*	Agency	Program	Objectives	Estimated Funding (Fiscal Year 2026)	Related Actions
-	U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF)	Environmental Engineering	Supports fundamental research focused on reducing pollution and its environmental and human impacts through closing resource loops; smart amendments; environmental manipulation; or remediation with engineered processes. More information is posted at https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/environmental-engineering .	Unknown	MI-04, MI-19
-	NSF	Environmental Sustainability	Promote sustainable engineered systems that support human well-being and that are also compatible with sustaining natural (environmental) systems. These systems provide ecological services vital for human survival. Research efforts supported by the program typically consider long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. The program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological protection and maintain stable economic conditions. More information is posted at https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/environmental-sustainability .	Unknown	WM-15, FE-06, FE-07, FE-09, FE-10, FE-11
-	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	National Coastal Resilience Fund	Provide grants to invest in nature-based solutions that protect coastal communities while enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. Invest in conservation projects that restore, increase and strengthen natural infrastructure such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, rivers and floodplains, coastal forest, and barrier islands that mitigate the impacts of storms and other coastal hazards to communities. Additional information can be found at https://www.nfwf.org/programs?page=5 .	To be determined	FE-06, FE-22

* Information is from <https://sam.gov/assistance-listings>.

Other Funding Sources

In addition to public funding, Estuario will continue to diversify its financial portfolio by strategically pursuing private and institutional funding sources such as corporate donations, foundation grants, academic partnerships, and in-kind contributions.

Estuario will proactively engage with philanthropic foundations whose priorities align with the ecological, social, and economic dimensions of watershed and coastal resilience.

The organization will also strengthen its engagement with the private sector by cultivating relationships with both locally owned businesses and multinational corporations operating in Puerto Rico. These partnerships will be structured to align Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) priorities with Estuario's programmatic work. Estuario is uniquely positioned to offer place-based ESG opportunities, including investments in water quality and watershed restoration, as well as in green infrastructure and community resilience initiatives.

Where appropriate, Estuario will pursue matching contributions and partnerships that generate both measurable environmental outcomes and shared value for corporate partners. Estuario will continue to partner with academic institutions to advance monitoring, research, and applied science efforts that support adaptive management of the SJBE system.

Other funding opportunities include:

- Bond programs that help to fund infrastructure, transportation, and environmental projects. Bonds involve an investor lending money for a set period of time, and the borrower pays back the money with interest by making periodic interest payments.⁵
- Debt swap, which is an agreement to redirect money from debt payments to a development objective. In some swaps, the creditor agrees to swap debt payments owed to them for spending on development. In other swaps, the borrower exchanges expensive debt for cheaper debt to reduce debt payments.⁶
- Mitigation banks, which are a wetland, stream, or other aquatic resource area that has been restored, established, enhanced, or preserved for the purpose of providing compensation for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources permitted under CWA Section 404 or a similar state or local wetland regulation.⁷

⁵ Charles Schwab. 2025. What is a Bond? Understanding Bond Types and How They Work. Accessed at <https://www.schwab.com/learn/story/what-are-bonds-understanding-bond-types-and-how-they-work?msocid=208a81b887eb6026345d9443860b619e>.

⁶ World Bank Group. 2024. How are Countries Trading Debt for Development? A Closer Look at Debt Swaps. Accessed at [How are Countries Trading Debt for Development? A Closer Look at Debt Swaps](#).

⁷ USEPA. 2025. Mitigation Banks under CWA Section 404. Accessed at <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/mitigation-banks-under-cwa-section-404>.

- Capital stack strategies that involve leveraging funding from a variety of sources to complete a project. One source of funding can be used as match for another source of funding allowing projects to be completed more cost-effectively.