

Criteria for Funding Financial Support

Organizations that sponsor Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) approved cooperative nurseries are eligible to apply for financial support from the PFBC in the form of a cooperative nursery sponsor grant.

Requirements for Submitting Grant Application

1. Sponsor organization must complete a *2024-2026 Application for Financial Support* and return it to the Cooperative Nursery Unit (CNU) by *June 1, 2024*.
2. Any grant project over \$10,000 must include estimates from reputable businesses. While not a requirement, any grant project under \$10,000 can also include estimates from reputable businesses to assist in the review and evaluation of each *2024-2026 Application for Financial Support*.
3. *The grant project cannot start until the grant agreement is signed by the Comptroller's Office, which then makes the grant agreement fully executed. Purchases made prior to that date will not be covered by the cooperative nursery sponsor grant and are the responsibility of the sponsor organization.*

Matching Funds

1. Preference will be given to projects with matching funds. Matching funds do not need to be 1:1 to be considered matching funds.
2. Matching funds are not a requirement. However, it is highly recommended.
3. In-kind labor by volunteers does not count as matching funds.

Preferred Grant Projects

1. New cooperative nursery construction.
2. Major additions or improvements at current cooperative nurseries.
3. The addition of facilities to improve water quality or water quality monitoring.
4. The construction of aquatic habitat structures to enhance a cooperative nursery.
5. The purchase of equipment for exclusive use at a cooperative nursery.

Cooperative Nursery Sponsor Grant *will not* Cover the Following

1. The cost of fish feed.
2. Payments to individuals.
3. Political activities.
4. Loans of any kind.
5. Endowment purposes.
6. Trips, tours, tickets, or advertising.
7. Salaries, stipends, day-to-day operating expenses, or utilities.

Criteria for Funding Financial Support

Cooperative Nursery Unit staff will review and evaluate all *2024-2026 Application for Financial Support* submittals after the application due date of *June 1, 2024*. When evaluating individual applications, CNU staff take into consideration many factors, including but not limited to the following.

1. Date the CNU received the *2024-2026 Application for Financial Support* in relation to the due date of *June 1, 2024*.
2. The number of cooperative nursery sponsor grants received within the previous three years and the sponsor organization's ability to provide receipts by the sponsor grant agreement due date.
3. The sponsor organization's ability to complete and return their Annual Report to the CNU by the due date of *July 15th*.
4. The sponsor organization's attendance at nursery inspections.
5. The amount of matching funds in relation to the total amount of funding requested.
6. Number of fishing derbies associated with the sponsor organization's cooperative nursery.