

# Chesapeake Bay Funders Network



CBFN brings funders together to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and the land, water, and communities of the broader Bay region through collaborative funding strategies that impact the *social, political and economic systems influencing the region's environment.*



# Our Role



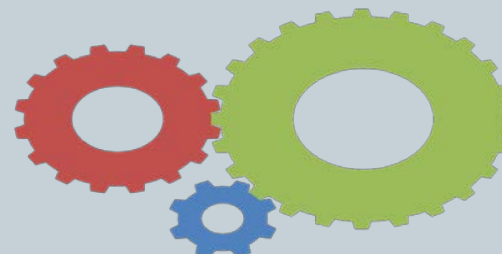
Identify critical needs and catalyze action

Enable smarter investments individually and collectively

Use our collective muscle for near and long term impact

Be a thoughtful leader, convener, and advocate for systems level change

# Initiatives



**Capacity Building Initiative**



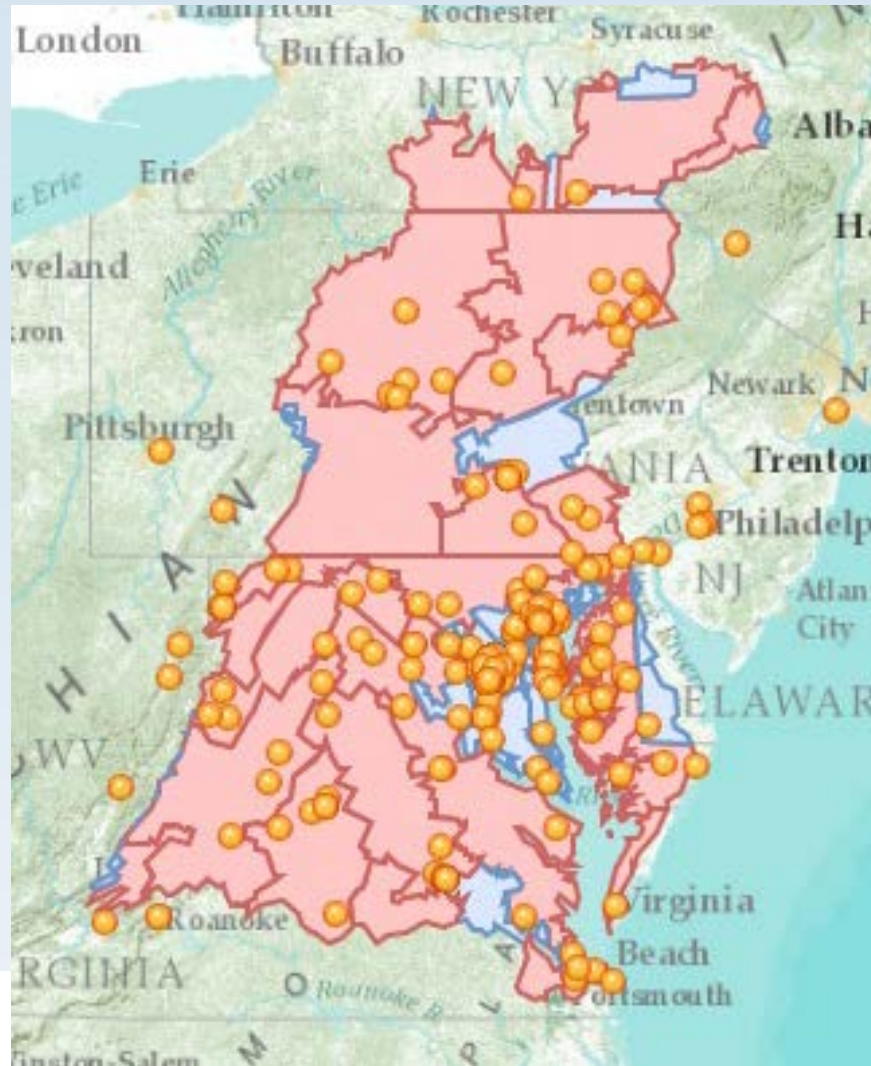
**Land and Water Initiative**



**Agriculture Initiatives**



# The Chesapeake Grassroots Challenge and Opportunity



# A Movement Approach to Building Grassroots Capacity to Protect and Restore Clean Water



# BUILDING POWER FOR CLEAN WATER

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## Power Building thru Community Organizing

- Self Assessments
- 3 multi-day workshops
- One on one support and coaching
- List Building
- IAF Collaboration
- Community organizing/outreach pilots
- Evaluation



# ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

Rational (Elitist)

“Like in a ecosystem, all parts have to work together ”  
“We have invested a lot and become good at the top part of the grid”

“We are underinvested in the under part of the grid”  
“The ones we’re not doing well are the most important”



## Inside Game

Lobbyists  
Policy advocates  
Elected & party officials  
Electoral support

## Headspace

Think tanks  
Scientific studies  
Policy experts  
Intellectuals  
Lawyers/negotiators



Political Action

Political Concept

## Outside Game

Community organizers  
Activists  
Rallies and events  
News stories

## Heart Space

Story tellers  
Performers  
Charismatic speakers  
Media narratives



Emotional (Populist)

# LESSONS LEARNED

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR CBFN

CB FOR GRANTEES IS AND CAN BE EMBEDDED IN CBFN MEMBER PORTFOLIOS

FOCUS COLLECTIVE CB ON GAPS AND NEEDS THAT WOULD BE UNMET OTHERWISE

SOME PROGRESS, BUT STRUGGLE TO DIVERSIFY BASE OF SUPPORT

BUILD ON MODEL OF TRUST, BUT FOCUS STRATEGIES ON CROSS SECTOR NETWORK BUILDING

CULTURAL CLASHES WITH NEW TACTICS, ORGANIZATIONS ARE SLOW TO CHANGE

NOT ALL GROUPS CAN/WILL DO ALL THINGS, "IT TAKES A VILLAGE" TO AFFECT LASTING CHANGE

SINGLE SECTOR APPROACH MAY LIMIT POTENTIAL AND IS NOT EQUITABLE (trickle down community engagement)

FACILITATE PLACE BASED COLLABORATIVE APPROPRIATE SCALE, PROVIDE CB FUNDS ACROSS SECTORS



# REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

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“Given the complexity and enormity of social problems, the unrelenting pressure to reduce the cost of creating and implementing solutions, and the proliferation of small nonprofit organizations, networks offer a way to weave together or create capacities that get better leverage, performance, and results.”

– Plastrik & Taylor (2006). “Net gains: A handbook for network builders.”

# REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

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Goal: Establish durable, cross-sector collaboration to advance community driven conservation agenda.

Assistance Provided:

Professional Facilitation, Assessment, TA

Grants for collaborative projects

Grants to increase NGO capacity