

Tips for Developing a Successful NAWCA Standard Grant Application

(these steps are generally the same for NAWCA Small Grants, however, the Small Grant process is a bit more flexible and streamlined):

1. Contact your regional Joint Venture (JV) Coordinator as soon as you begin to develop a project to assess whether your project is viable. Come prepared with: project wetland and upland acres; need for protection, enhancement, restoration; knowledge of high priority and/or Threatened or Endangered species using the project site. Most importantly, you should have information on partnerships and match dollars that can be provided in the proposal.
2. Projects should be specifically designed to address bird habitat conservation.
3. Projects with high acres, high wetland acreage, benefits to multiple wetlands species, notable Threatened/Endangered species benefits, long-term benefits, and strong partnerships are key to successful NAWCA projects.
4. Secure partner contribution statements far in advance of the submission deadline as they are often one of the most difficult elements of a proposal to obtain.
5. Read the instructions carefully for changes to the proposal format and technical questions to avoid unnecessary questions and revisions. These can change frequently.
6. Review examples of well-written proposals that have been funded (contact appropriate Assistant Coordinator for examples).
7. Start the process early to ensure proper coordination with local and state authorities to answer the Technical Assistance Questions and contact your JV Coordinator if you need assistance.
8. Schedule a site visit with your JV Coordinator to evaluate your project early in the process.
9. Reference the [timeline](#) for developing a proposal often and coordinate regularly with your JV Coordinator.