

## Scoring Criteria and Application Questions

The Scoring Criteria in this section was developed using Nebraska Environmental Trust's Title 137, Chapter 4 and 6 and the Nebraska Revised Statute 81-15, 175 and 176 (<https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/about/lr.html>). The answers to these questions will be used by the Grants Committee to Score your project.

1. **Application Question:** Does your project conform to the funding categories? Explain which categories and how.

**Scoring Criteria:** Does the project conform to the funding categories? (04.001.03, 04.004, and 81-15,176)

- a. 0 – Does not meet criteria – Outside of scope
- b. 1 – Low – Undefined project, just lists the category
- c. 2 – Below Average – Lacks clarity of purpose
- d. 3 – Average – Meets one category objective
- e. 4 – Above Average – Two categories well defined
- f. 5 – High – Three or more categories well defined

2. **Application Question:** Does your project produce a commitment of cash funds from other funding sources? Please provide the percentage of match to the project's funds (Cash Match that is a percentage of the total project cost).

**Scoring Criteria:** Does the project produce a commitment of cash funds from other funding sources (Cash Match that is a percentage of the total project cost)? (81-15, 175 (2)(b))

- a. 0 – Does not provide any match
- b. 1 – Provides 5% - 24% match
- c. 2 – Provides 25% - 49% match
- d. 3 – Provides 50% - 74% match
- e. 4 – Provides 75% - 89% match
- f. 5 – Provides 90% - 99% match

3. **Application Question:** Evaluation of performance looking back the last 3 grant cycles. Has any of your projects in the last 3 grant cycles received a 15-day notice that was enforced and/or had quarterly or final reports overdue? If yes, please explain. If you have not applied to NET within the last 3 grant cycles, please indicate that.

**Scoring Criteria:** Evaluation of performance looking back the last 3 grant cycles. (06.003.07)

- a. 0 – Received a 15 Day Notice that was enforced
- b. 1 – Final Report was late
- c. 2 – Two Quarterly Reports were late
- d. 3 – No more than one late Quarterly Report, Final Report submitted on time, and no extensions
- e. 4 – All Reports submitted on time, no extensions and no modifications requested
- f. 5 – New Applicant (Entity has not applied to NET in the last 3 grant cycles)

4. **Application Question:** Does the project result in a public-private partnership? If yes, please explain how. (Letters of support are not considered as a partnership; actual contributions are a partnership.)

**Scoring Criteria:** Does the project result in a public-private partnership? Letters of support are not considered as a partnership; actual contributions are a partnership. (81-15,175 (2)(c))

- a. 0 – No partnerships
  - b. 1 – Low – One or two entities
  - c. 2 – Below Average – Three entities
  - d. 3 – Average – One entity plus one public entity
  - e. 4 – Above Average – Two entities plus one public entity
  - f. 5 – High – Three entities plus one public entity
5. **Application Question:** Does this project attain a geographic mix that provides funding for a diverse area? Please explain the number of counties and how they are impacted by this project.

**Scoring Criteria:** Does this project attain a geographic mix that provides funding for a diverse area? (06.003.01 and 81-15,175 (2)(d))

- a. 1 – Actual project in one to two counties
  - b. 2 – Actual project in three to five counties
  - c. 3 – Actual project in more than five counties.
6. **Application Question:** Does this project provide public access?

**Scoring Criteria:** Does this project provide public access? (04.005)

- d. 0 – No
  - e. 2 – Yes
7. **Application Question:** Is the project cost effective? Provide the percentage. To calculate the percentage of overhead, please take the amount you're requesting for operating expenses and divide it by the total amount of funds you're requesting minus the administration requested. Formula:  $\text{Operations} / (\text{NET Funds requested} - \text{Administration})$

**Scoring Criteria:** Is the project cost effective? (Formula:  $\text{Operating Expenses} / (\text{NET Funds requested} - \text{Administration}) = \text{Cost Effective Percentage}$ ). (06.003.02)

- f. 0 – 12% or higher
  - g. 1 – 10 to 11.99%
  - h. 2 – 7 to 9.99%
  - i. 3 – 4 to 6.99%
  - j. 4 – 2.01 to 3.99%
  - k. 5 – 0 to 2.00%
8. **Application Question:** Does the project have economic impacts? Measurables must be provided in application.

**Scoring Criteria:** Does the project have economic impacts? Measurables must be provided in application. (06.003.03)

- a. 0 – Does not meet criteria – No data provided
- b. 1 – Low – Lack in clarity in project scope
- c. 2 – Below Average – Generalization of goals to be accomplished
- d. 3 – Average – Increases in opportunities or mitigation of hazards well defined
- e. 4 – Above Average – Proposed measurements provided
- f. 5 – High – Outcomes can be verified independently

9. **Application Question:** Does the project produce direct environmental impacts? Measurables must be provided in application.

**Scoring Criteria:** Does the project produce direct environmental impacts? Measurables must be provided in application. (06.003.04)

- g. 0 – Does not meet criteria – No data provided
- h. 1 – Low – Lack of clarity in project scope
- i. 2 – Below Average – Generalization of goals to be accomplished
- j. 3 – Average – Direct environmental impacts are well defined
- k. 4 – Above Average – Proposed measurements provided
- l. 5 – High – Outcomes can be verified independently

10. **Application Question:** Does the project produce long term environmental benefits for the general public? Explain the number of years your project will provide an environmental benefit.

**Scoring Criteria:** Does the project produce long term environmental benefits for the general public? (06.003.05 and 81-15,175 (2)(g))

- a. 0 – Not sustainable (e.g., requires on-going financial support to maintain)
- b. 1 – One year
- c. 2 – Two years
- d. 3 – Three years (can demonstrate that it can continue without NET Board support)
- e. 4 – Four to nine years
- f. 5 – Ten years or more

11. **Application Question:** Does this project have a plan for evaluating the results of the expenditure of grant funds? Please explain how.

**Scoring Criteria:** Does the project have a plan for evaluating the results of the expenditure of grant funds? (06.003.06)

- a. 0 – No plan provided (e.g., lack of evaluation of rent, lease, purchase alternatives)
- b. 1 – Tangible and/or intangible benefits provided
- c. 2 – Goals, objectives, and outcomes provided
- d. 3 – Baseline measurement, target, and improvement provided
- e. 4 – Measurable real time value provided
- f. 5 – Independent validation process of data provided