



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-CO-N

**MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS, OPERATIONS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND DISTRICT COMMANDS**

SUBJECT: Handshake Partnership Program – Fiscal Year 2021 Invitation for Proposals

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is committed to continuing and building a partnership culture within our organization and recognizes that partnerships are a key component to continued successful operations.
2. The Handshake Partnership Program began in 2004 and has provided “seed money” to Corps facilities for 191 partnership projects that have engaged over 580 partners on federal lands. These projects have improved recreational opportunities and benefited environmental stewardship activities while promoting the Corps missions. Partners have contributed over \$8.8 million in volunteer hours, professional services, materials and supplies, equipment, and funds to these efforts.
3. This program provides incentive to use our partnering authorities to their fullest potential and an opportunity to compete for additional funding to further partnerships.
4. Corps project offices are invited to submit applications to obtain funding assistance to enter into partnerships with non-federal entities (i.e. Challenge Partnership Agreements) to accomplish activities which benefit recreation facilities and/or natural resources at Corps water resource development projects. Applications must be received no later than 31 October 2020.
5. The Handshake Program application instructions and application form are enclosed. More information about this program and the downloadable application form can be found on the Natural Resources Management Gateway at <https://corpslakes.erc.dren.mil/employees/handshake/handshake.cfm>.
6. My point of contact for this effort is Heath Kruger, Northwestern Division Partnership Advisory Committee member, (402) 995-2716.

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1. Handshake FY 2021 Instructions
2. Handshake 2021 Application

THOMAS P. SMITH, P.E.
Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division
Directorate of Civil Works