



**Q&A Notes from the Call for Participants Information Sessions  
June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**In order to apply for the Call for Participants Round II, do the communities/organizations have to have participated in the first round?**

- No, the communities applying for Round II of our Call for Participants Projects do not have to be communities that participated in the first round. The SNEP Network is looking to support new technical assistance projects with the Call for Participants Round II. For further clarification, it is called “Round II” because it is the 2nd year that the SNEP Network released a Call for Participants.

**With the Call for Participants, can the Network provide educational or financial assistance to communities to help correct stormwater issues? For example, can the Network help determine solutions for issues related to equipment installed years ago that hasn’t been maintained properly and needs to be cleaned out? Also, if there is a need for personnel training to maintain equipment and services related to additional drain/water containment issues that are occurring, can the Network assist?**

- The SNEP Network does have the capabilities to work with stormwater/watershed financing and technical issues. In the application, a helpful way for the SNEP Network to determine a scope of work is to describe the problem and the services you think you will need to address the problem.
- The SNEP Network is primarily focused around planning and assisting communities with building their capacity to better manage stormwater and undertake watershed management and/or climate resiliency work within their communities. The Network can help with technical aspects relative to stormwater management such as addressing flooding issues and can help with identifying low cost solutions. SNEP Network assistance depends on the scope of need and how it aligns with Network partner services. The matrix of partner services is available online.
- There is an educational and training component to SNEP Network’s work. The training of municipal staff and elected officials is part of what we do. However, general public education is not a primary focus.

**Would the SNEP Network define solutions and the community would have to get funding to solve it?**

- The SNEP Network’s aim is to build local capacity, so the Network would work closely with the communities to identify different options for potential solutions based on the community’s needs and specific situation.
- The SNEP Network can work with communities identify potential funding and financing options that are specific to the community’s needs and circumstances. If you are interested in a financing element as part of your assistance, you would just need to identify that in the application.

**Is there a specific expectation/parameter of a timeline for projects that are expected? (Either for the period we would actually be working w/ SNEP Network consultants, or for the proposed project overall?)**

- The SNEP Network does try to complete the project within the fiscal year. However, we are flexible with the timeline a project can be completed.

**Can a community submit an application with multiple communities? For examples, would it be good for Providence communities to collaborate together and submit an application/apply as several organizations?**

- Yes, we do encourage partnerships to submit together on one application.
- The MOA will be signed with a lead entity on behalf of the collaboration or partnership.

**How many awards are being given out or amount of money to assist municipalities?**

- The awards given out this round will vary so there is no concrete answer, but we are thinking no more than six projects.
- The SNEP Network is not a grant making agency and award technical assistance. The SNEP Network offers technical assistance to build capacity to help communities figure out what the right path is for them. We meet communities where they are at. Sometimes, if a distinct task is needed such as a modeling effort or a design, we do have a small amount of consultant pool funds to provide consultant services for free to your community if there is a distinct need for a design or engineering service as part of your technical assistance project.

**The clarifying question: the “money” being awarded is in-kind resources/services, not actual cash, correct?**

- Yes, the money being awarded is in-kind resources/services and not actual cash.

**Is there a history of multiples communities applying for the services as a sub-regional Network? How does that change how the application is written and how the technical services may change if is it multiple communities partnering in a watershed?**

- Currently, the SNEP Network is offering assistance to Pleasant Bay Alliance which is a 3-4 community alliance on Cape Cod that have done a number of things together to improve water quality and manage Pleasant Bay.
- We do encourage multiple communities to apply together if that is what is needed to address the issue.
- It is great if communities that have greater capacity can work with a community with less capacity. Communities can join together and apply together as one to benefit from similar assistance.

**Could two neighboring municipalities apply together?**

- Yes, they can! There will need to be a lead community to develop a memorandum of agreement.
- The MOA is to establish participation and interest from the community. There is nothing legally binding and there is no requirement to take the advice from the SNEP Network.

**Will letters of participation from distinct municipalities help to inform the application? If so, should these include town specific needs/interests?**

- Yes, letters of support from municipalities would be helpful for the application.

**Does the project need to be ongoing? How developed does the project need to be in order to be qualified? Can it be in a primary stage of the design?**

- The project doesn't necessarily need to be an ongoing project. In the application, you can specify your needs. Based on the needs identified in the application, Network partners can help you scope out and move the project forward.
- It is fine to not have a project that is well developed, but we don't want to do one offs. We would like to see continuity that builds towards climate resilience. It is more important of where you want to go and what objectives would you like to achieve.

### **Can the project be led by community members or residents of the town?**

- We need a project point person, but it is also great to have the backing of the municipality and some staff members to tap into their expertise.
- We want these projects to have life and not be a document that sits on a shelf. To the extent that municipal officials or planners are involved, it would be good because then they can help take the project to the next level.
- No requirement to implement solutions, but there should be potential for the project moving forward.

### **Does building capacity include funding people to manage projects?**

- No, the idea is that the expertise of the Network Partners will be drawn upon to assist with the project.
- There is no direct funding for people to manage the project. The Network partners will work with the communities to build their local capacity.

### **How big is the region? What constitutes "regional significance"? Does it have to be two states, cities, neighborhoods etc..?**

- We want projects to have lessons learned that can be shared throughout the region.
- Applicants can be one community or one municipality, but the theme that you are applying with should have regional impact and the potential to be a model, a lesson learned, or a case study for another community.

### **What ways have you helped projects engage with residents?**

- The engagement could range from holding a public workshop to holding a community event. It depends on what is necessary for project success and implementation. We would work with the community to ask what would be most effective for them. It will be part of the conversations if your application is selected.
- In the case of Portsmouth, RI and their project for a climate resiliency strategy, there is a resilience workgroup that is formed with members of the community.
- In the case of the Bristol Town Commons project, members of town government and recreation department were involved on the project. It depends and varies based on the nature of the project.

### **Can you describe a bit more of the types of technical assistance available to help a group designing their proposal?**

- For project specific questions or technical assistance questions, reach out to Elizabeth Scott (RI) and Kimberly Groff (MA) to help map out a potential application or proposal. They can also provide more information about the resources available to help address your needs.
- The SNEP Network assistance is different than a traditional RFP for a grant funding opportunity. It is a technical assistance award and it is not a very difficult application. We are not going to close ourselves off and not take questions. We are here to help develop ideas and see if it is a fit for the SNEP Network or steer you in the right direction to provide resources.

**If a project were to be on private property, is that an issue for applying for technical assistance? For example, the restoration of cranberry bogs that are owned privately. Would you still conduct a feasibility and design study if there was permission from the owner? For a stormwater project, what if it is on a private road/and have a drainage problem?**

- It depends on the specifics of the project. The permission and commitment from the landowners would be the first step. We wouldn't do anything with a property that wouldn't involve the coordination of the landowner. We would need all players involved.
- We understand that if we are going to be successful with restoration, we are going to be working on private property. If the town and/or watershed organization identified the property as essential for restoration, then that is important.
- We can do work on private property, but it has challenges.
- A letter of support included in the application would be great for projects on private property. Or, if you included in your writing of the application that you had support and will get a letter of support, we would find that acceptable as well.

**For projects that involve a lot of owners (property owners, condo owners, private business owners, other local nonprofits etc...) do you need to have each of their buy-in from each entities?**

- Since the project is for an overall village plan and not specific projects on specific properties at this point, then you do not need specific buy-in from each entity for the application.
- To get further support and buy-in from specific owners in this situation, the application can include an outreach component to the project.

**Could this count as match for funding for other opportunities? Is there a way to quantify that?**

- SNEP technical assistance cannot be counted as match since we are a federally funded grant.

**How big of a piece of a larger watershed project would it make sense to submit to the application?**

- It would be good to start with outlining your objectives in the application and bullet the possible areas where you would be looking for assistance.
- We are a flexible group and willing to work with communities to help you be successful with your projects. The Network doesn't have capacity to select all projects, but we will do our best to help out as many in any way that we can.