Massachusetts Grant Funding Workshop

March 14, 2024
10:00AM - 12:00PM

Today's Agenda

10:00 Introduction and Housekeeping
Martha Sheils – NE EFC Director

10:05 Opening Remarks
Mel Coté, Chief of the Surface Water Protection Branch of the Water Division, EPA Region 1

10:15 Overview of Funding Programs

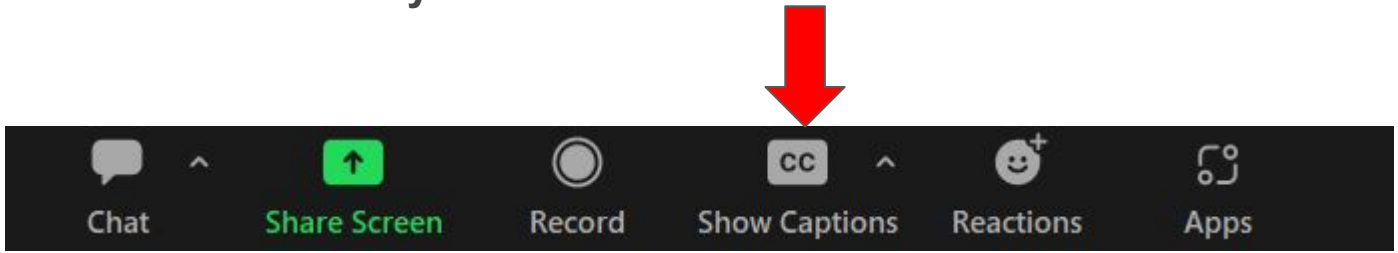
11:25 Group Q&A

11:35 Meet the Funders!

Access Q&A and Live Closed Captioning

- You can ask questions in the Q & A box in your zoom control panel
- If you have any tech issues, use the chat feature to connect with the webinar hosts
- The webinar will be recorded and we will send the recording after the meeting

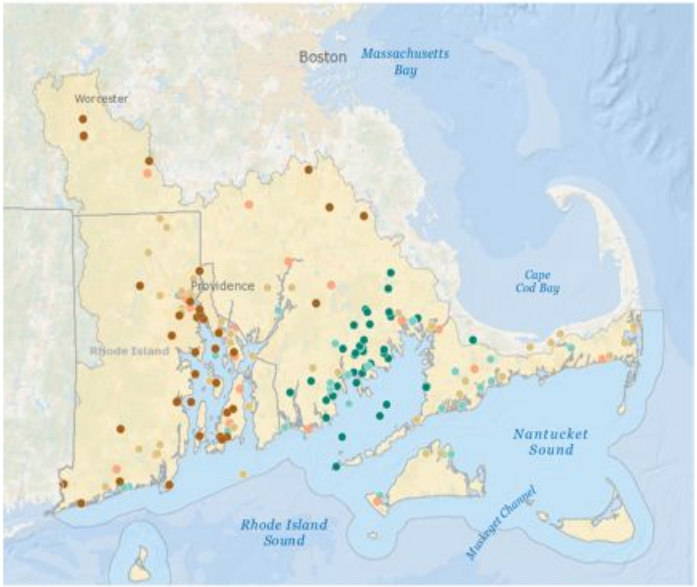
To view closed captions, click on the closed caption feature in your zoom control panel at the bottom of your screen



The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network

The **SNEP Network** is a collaborative network of partners with expertise in stormwater management, financing, water quality and habitat restoration, green infrastructure, low impact development, and watershed-scale conservation and restoration.

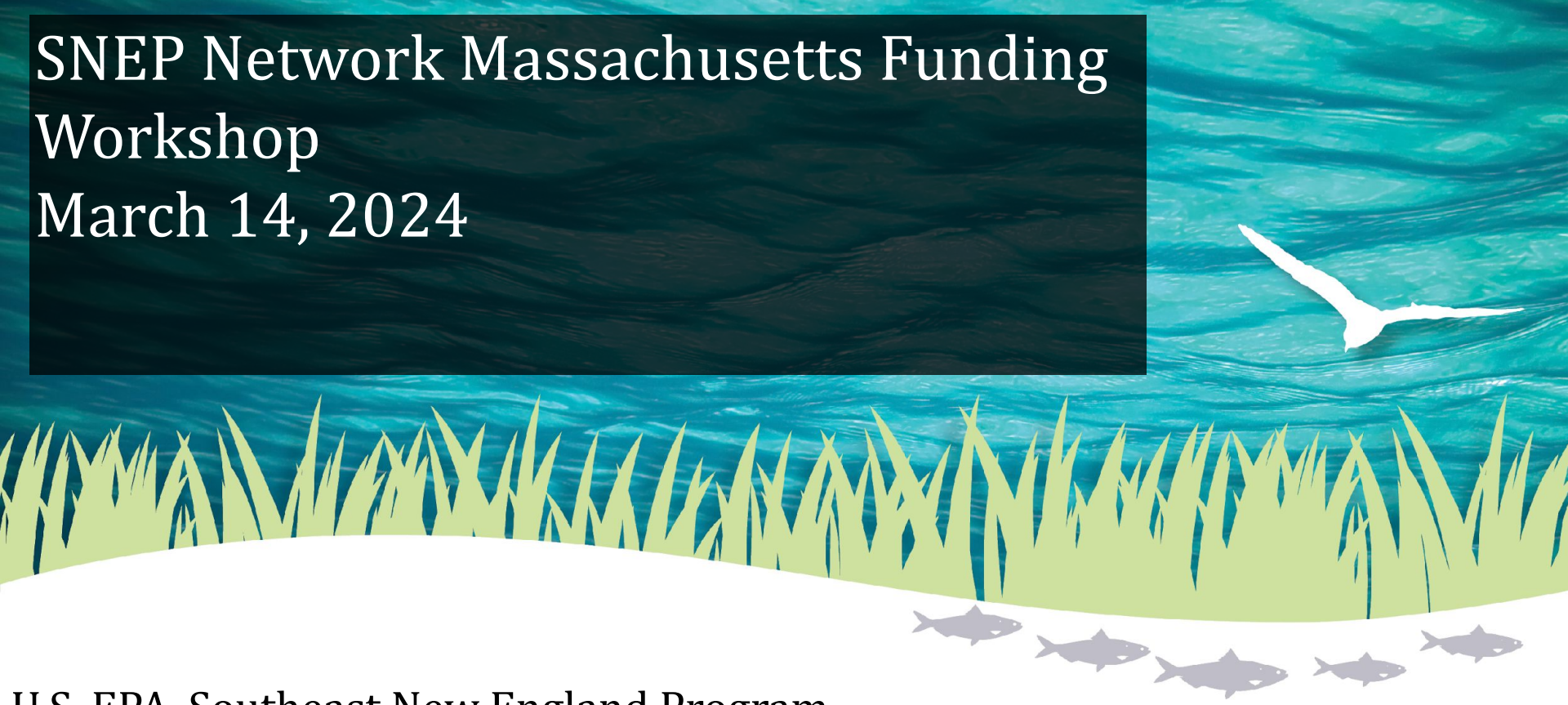
- Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
- Cape Cod Commission
- The Environmental Finance Center at The University of North Carolina
- Save The Bay
- The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University
- Throwe Environmental
- Elizabeth Scott Consulting
- Mass Audubon
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Kimberly Groff Consulting
- The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island
- The University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center
- University of Rhode Island MPA Program



Request FREE Technical Assistance:
https://snepnetwork.org/assistance-form/

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

SNEP Network Massachusetts Funding Workshop
March 14, 2024



U.S. EPA, Southeast New England Program

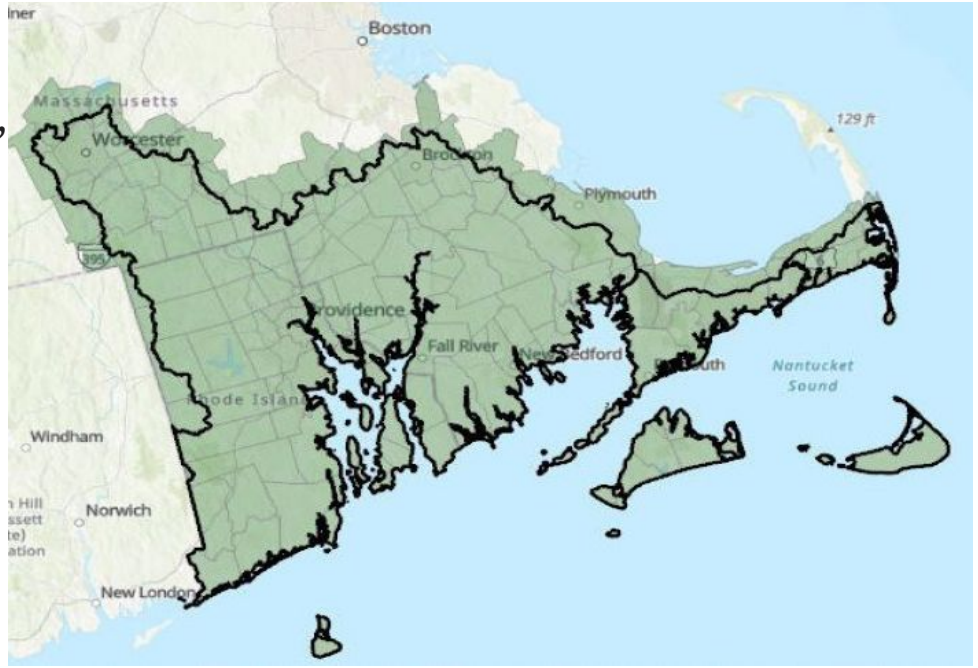
EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

SNEP Southeast New England Program

Background

SNEP Region Includes

- Coastal watersheds between Westerly, RI and Chatham, MA
- Watersheds of Narragansett Bay, Buzzards Bay, and Southern Cape Cod
- Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Elizabeth Islands, and Block Island



Major Issues Facing the Region

- Nutrient and Pathogen Pollution
- Land Development
- Tourism/Water-Based Economy
- Climate Change
- Environmental Justice

Goals and Key Actions

Program Vision 2050

A resilient ecosystem of safe and healthy waters, thriving watersheds and natural lands, and sustainable communities in the SNEP coastal watershed region

Resilient Ecosystem of Safe and Healthy Waters

- Waters support native seagrasses and aquatic life, plentiful native fish and shellfish, and a variety of water-based recreation opportunities

Thriving Watersheds and Natural Lands

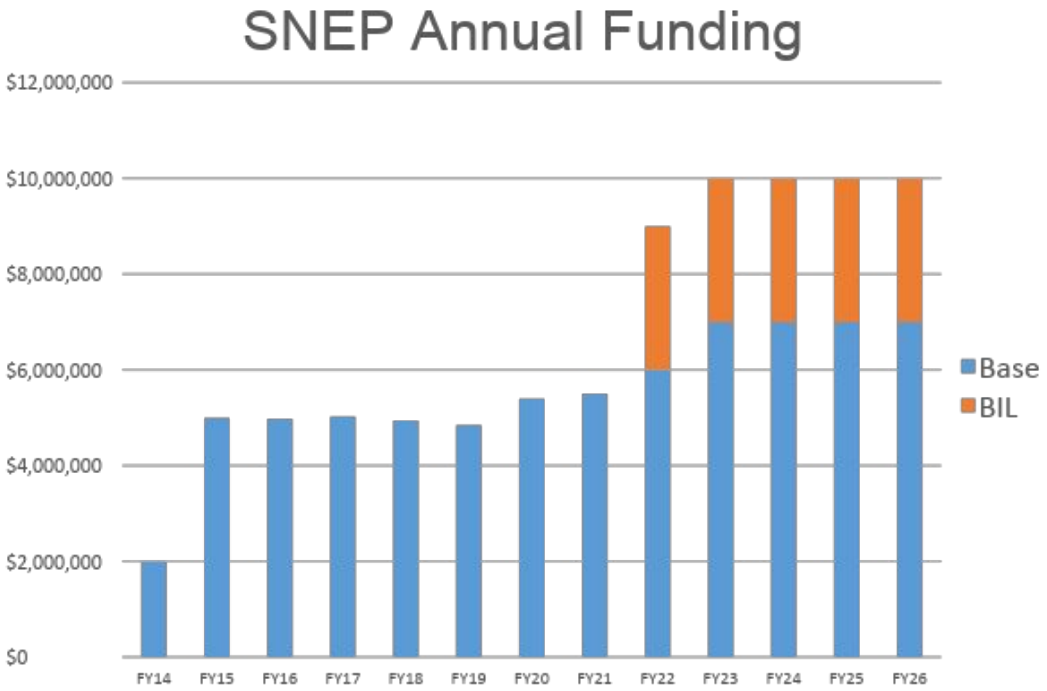
- Watersheds provide essential ecological functions, species diversity, and protection from both human-based and naturally occurring environmental stressors, and healthy, connected natural lands support a variety and range of native plan and wildlife communities

Sustainable Communities

- Communities share robust water-based economics, protect and provide access to natural lands, open spaces and parks, encourage local food sources, and are adapting for resilience to expected impacts of climate change

Budget Overview

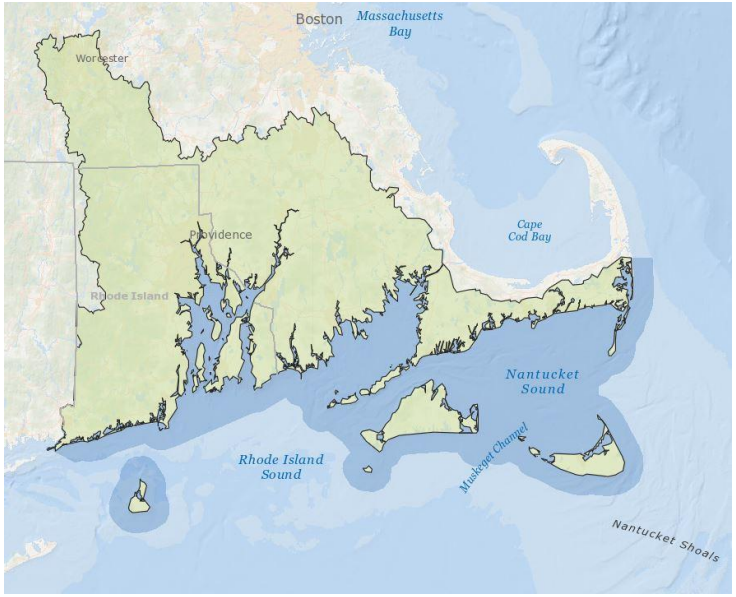
- FY24 Base: $7,000,000
  - Same as FY23
- BIL: $15,000,000
  - $3,000,000 each year for FY22-26
- Total Funding Since FY14: ~$56,800,000



Note: Chart Assumes Level Base Funding FY24-26. Funding is Not Guaranteed.

Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities

- SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants
- SNEP Network
- SNEP Opportunities to Advance Resiliency
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- New England Water Infrastructure Network
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- MA EOEEA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program
- MA Department of Environmental Protection
- MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
- MA Division of Ecological Restoration



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

MVP
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Funding amount:
At least $20M total
$3M per municipality, political subdivisions of the Commonwealth
$5M for regional projects
10% Required match

Important dates:
RFR release: Mid-March 2024
RFR Q&A period ~2 weeks
Applications due: ~6 weeks after release

MA Climate Change Clearinghouse (mass.gov)

PROJECT TYPES

Funds

Community identified priority action to address climate change impacts

Project stages

1. Planning, Assessments, Capacity-Building, and Regulatory Updates
2. Design and Permitting
3. Construction and On-the-Ground Implementation

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Successful applications meet 9 core principles
  - emphasis on NBS, engagement, outreach, and EJ & priority populations
- Must be MVP Certified
- Competitive projects have: multiple partnerships, thoughtful outreach and education, utilize climate data and science, and support building capacity in the community

Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant

Mass DEP

MassDEP
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Funding amount:

~$900,000
~$50,000 - $100,000 per award
No required match

Important dates:

Pre-RFP Meeting: Jan. 24, 2024
Release Date: March 8, 2024
Written Questions: March 20, 2024
RFP Deadline: May 8, 2024

604(b) Grant Coordinator:
Meghan Selby - meghan.selby @mass.gov

PROJECT TYPES

- Water quality monitoring & assessment
- Development of nine-element Watershed-Based Plans
- Climate resiliency water quality planning
- Implementation planning & design
- 604(b) Environmental Justice NPS Coordinator Program
- Regional-scale watershed planning for nitrogen impacted areas

Eligible entities include regional planning agencies, councils of government, counties, conservation districts, tribes, and cities and towns.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Identification of water quality issues and developing solutions, including pollutant load reductions necessary to meet the SWQS
- Climate-resilient implementation plans that remediate pollution to impaired waters that will partially or fully restore waterbody segments not meeting the SWQS.
- Provide opportunities for EJ communities to ensure equitable and fair access to the benefits of the 604(b) Grant Program.
- Planning projects that will lead to future Section 319 projects, such as developing WBPs, implementation plans, and pollutant load reduction calculations.

Important Website Link:
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#section-604(b)-water-quality-management-planning-grant-program-

Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants

Mass DEP

MassDEP
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Funding amount:

~$3,100,000
$50,000 - $500,000 per award
No required match this grant cycle

Important dates:

Pre-RFP Meeting: Jan. 24, 2024
Anticipated Release: March 15, 2024
Written Questions: March 29, 2024
Anticipated RFP Deadline: May 24, 2024

319 Grant Coordinator:
Malcolm Harper - malcolm.harper@mass.gov

PROJECT TYPES

Implementation Projects to:

- Restore impaired waters
- Protect healthy waters
- Restore nitrogen impacted areas

Non-Implementation (Capacity Building) Projects:

- Environmental Justice NPS Coordinator
- Regional NPS Implementation Project Development
- Agriculture Regional NPS Implementation Project Development
- NPS Capacity Building & Technology Transfer
- Municipal/Regional Stormwater Collaborative & Funding Mechanisms

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Priorities include projects that:

- Restore impaired waters
- Protect high quality unimpaired waters
- Implement climate adaptation, pollutant removal Best Management Practices (BMPs), and the application of new NPS management technologies
- Enhance diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and Environmental Justice
- Build upon previous §319-funded work and/or other grant-funded work

- Implementation projects require a MassDEP-accepted nine-element watershed-based plan.
- Competitive applications will be clear and concise, propose comprehensive and feasible solutions to address an impairment, and provide substantial pollutant load reductions.
- Any Massachusetts public or private organization is eligible.

Important Website Link:
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#section-319-nonpoint-source-competitive-grants-program-

MS4 Municipal Assistance Program

Mass DEP

MassDEP
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Funding amount:

$300,000
$50,000 per application min.
No required match

Important dates:

RFQ Release & Due Dates:
TBD 2024

MS4 Grant Coordinator:
Elizabeth Clark -
elizabeth.clark2@mass.gov

PROJECT TYPES

- Projects that meet MS4 permit requirements
  - Planning
  - Resource sharing
  - Education/outreach
  - Implementation
- All project stages are eligible for funding
- Projects must benefit multiple municipalities

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Must meet MS4 requirements
- Proposals must come from groups of municipalities (2 or more)
- Projects must be completed within the state fiscal year (SFY)
- Preference is given to projects that directly assist the greatest number of municipalities

Important Website Link:
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#stormwater-ms4-municipal-assistance-grant-program-

Clean Water SRF

MassDEP

Funding amount:
FFY2023 CW SRF $96.3 M
Base and Supplemental Grants

Important dates: Annual Project Solicitation mid-May to mid-August

Important Website Link:
SRF Clean Water Program | Mass.gov

PROJECT TYPES

- Categories of projects funded: CSO mitigation, wastewater treatment facilities, I/I correction, wastewater and stormwater collection, nutrient reduction, and non-point source abatement
- Project stages funded: asset management plans, planning studies, construction projects

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Projects will have demonstrable water quality benefits, eliminate or mitigate risk to public health, and achieve or maintain compliance with permits or water pollution controls

- Eligible borrowers: local governmental units or community wastewater utilities
- Project ranking is tiered with highest tier being those projects that address the greatest threat to public health and the environment.

New England Water Infrastructure Network (NEWIN)

New England Environmental Finance Center

NEWIN offers **free financial, managerial, and technical support** for New England's municipalities, water utilities, and tribes

Water assistance request form: https://neefc.org/water-infrastructure/

Contact: laura.collins@maine.edu

NEWIN Technical Assistance Program

- Help communities access Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for water infrastructure projects, with a focus on **Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs)**
- NEWIN assists any **SRF-eligible system** with a range of water infrastructure projects, including: clean water, drinking water, stormwater/ nonpoint source pollution, source water protection, climate resiliency, lead service lines, and PFAS/emerging contaminants
- Prioritize working with disadvantaged communities, new borrowers, and systems facing urgent water challenges

Project Examples

NEWIN offers assistance at every step of the project process. Current projects include:

- Helping a new borrower navigate the CWSRF application process and submit an application for a wastewater facilities plan
- Conducting an income survey to establish eligibility for DWSRF loan principal forgiveness
- Building public support to investigate dam removal
- Supporting a financial capacity analysis for a CSO Long-Term Control Plan
- Developing replicable stormwater designs to retrofit urban landscapes

Restoration Partnerships Program

Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
Division of Ecological Restoration
Invested in Nature and Community

Funding amount:
- ~ $100,000-$200,000/ annually per partnership
- Match is not required

Partnership Term: 3-5 years

Important dates: FY25 RFR expected Spring 2024

Website Link: DER Partnership Program | mass.gov

PROJECT TYPES

- Regional capacity building funding:
  - Restoration Coordinator and other Partnership staff support position(s)
- Project Implementation funding:
  - Dam removal
  - Culvert replacements
  - Wetland restoration
  - Urban River Revitalization
  - Retired Cranberry Bog Restoration
  - Floodplain restoration

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Successful applicants to DER's Partnership Program meet the following criteria:

- Region-based
- Long-term restoration and nature-based resiliency focused
- Action oriented
- Collaboratively and equitably governed
- Capacity building
- Amplify restoration values

- Eligibility Requirements
  - 501 c3 non-profits
  - Regional Planning Agencies

Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program (CRMA)

Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
Division of Ecological Restoration
Invested in Nature and Community

- Estimated $2-3M total
- Approx. $25K-400K per grant
- No match required

Applications due April 12 at 4pm!
Questions due March 22

https://www.commbuys.com/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-24-1046-DER-FWE01-99813

PROJECT TYPES

- Culvert or bridge replacement(s) or removal(s) located on a public way
- Must cross a non-tidal river or stream channel. The Stream Channel may be either intermittent or perennial
- Local government units, including towns, cities, districts, commissions, and regional governments; as well as federally recognized and state acknowledged tribes are eligible to apply

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts or bridges located in areas of high ecological value
- Only projects that intend to meet the goals of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards will be considered for funding
- Replace aging culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and flood resiliency criteria

Go to COMMBUYS.com and search “DER 2024-03”

Coastal Resilience Grants

Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

~$4 million available for FY25
$2 million project cap

Match waived for Tribes and projects that involve and benefit EJ neighborhoods.

Match (25% of total project cost) required for construction/ implementation projects

Match encouraged but not required for other project phases/categories

FY25 RFR expected Spring 2024

PROJECT TYPES

Eligible Projects:
- Detailed Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- Public Education
- Proactive Planning
- Redesigns and Retrofits
- Shoreline Restoration

Project phases supported:
- Planning, Design, Permitting, Construction and Monitoring

Eligible Applicants:
- Coastal cities and towns
- Eligible 501 c3 nonprofits
- Eligible federally recognized and state acknowledged MA Tribes

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Program Goals:
- Address current and future coastal flooding, erosion and sea level rise impacts (local and regional scales)
- Protect public facilities and critical infrastructure
- Provide broad public benefits and access
- Support adaptation of Environmental Justice (EJ) communities

Coastal Resilience Grant Program | Mass.gov

CZM

Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grants

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Funding amount:
$2 million total funding available
$50- $850K per application
Match is encouraged

FY25 RFR expected Spring 2024

Kathleen.Mason@mass.gov

PROJECT TYPES

Eligible Projects:

- Assessment of stormwater runoff to coastal waterbodies.
- Design and construction of stormwater structural BMPs.
- Trainings, bylaw development, and case studies to support future implementation of green stormwater infrastructure.
- Development of comprehensive habitat restoration plans.
- Advancement of priority land acquisition planning activities.

Eligible Applicants:

- Municipalities within the Coastal Watershed
- NGOs and Tribes in partnership with municipalities

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Program Goals:

- Remediation of impaired waterbodies listed on the State's Integrated List of (Impaired) Waters.
- Implementation of green stormwater infrastructure.
- Comprehensive restoration to protect and improve the function of coastal habitats.
- Preserve or expand opportunities for shellfish harvesting.
- Reduce or eliminate instances of beach closures due to bacteria levels.

Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grants | Mass.gov

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Funding amount:
$450K-$910K total from IIJA
Usually $50K-$250K per app.
No match required

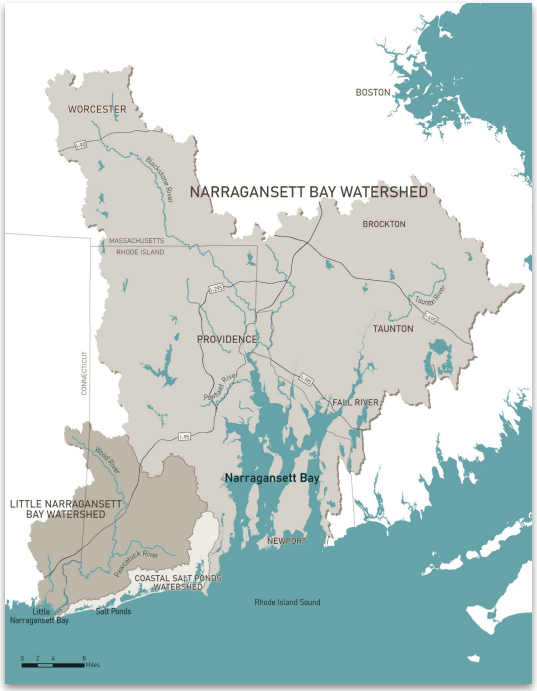
Important dates:
RFP expected early summer 2024

https://nbep.org - join email list for RFP announcements

PROJECT TYPES

- Projects consistent with NBEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (2012). Past RFPs have addressed watershed and estuarine habitat restoration, public access, and green infrastructure.
- Will likely focus on *planning* steps: study/assessment, design, and permitting.
- Federal subawards; all costs reimbursable
- Projects taking place in environmental justice areas (as defined by NBEP's EJMap) will receive additional consideration

PROGRAM PRIORITIES



Is your project location eligible? Visit our website for a searchable map.

National Coastal Resilience Fund

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Funding amount: $140 million
$100K-10M per application, depending on project type
Match is not required but is encouraged to demonstrate broad support for the project

Important dates:
-Pre-Proposal Due Date: 4/10/2024
-Full Proposal Invitations: Mid to End of May 2024
-Full Proposal Due Date: 7/2/2024
-Award Announced: Late Nov. – Early Dec. 2024

Link to 2024 Request for Proposals:
https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2024-request-proposals

PROJECT TYPES

- **Community Capacity Building and Planning** that engages stakeholders and builds the capacity to plan and execute a variety of future resilience strategies, projects, and other activities.
- **Site Assessment and Preliminary Design** of best options to address restoration and resilience goals of pre-identified and prioritized communities.
- **Final Design and Permitting** for on-the-ground projects. Funding may be used for developing conceptual or preliminary designs into final designs and engineering plans, continued stakeholder engagement, detailed cost estimates, communications with permitting officials, and tasks to position projects for implementation.
- **Restoration and Monitoring** of projects that have been prioritized through planning, address coastal resilience, have completed all design and engineering plans necessary for implementation, and are ready to secure or have secured all permits and other approvals necessary for implementation.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

NFWF will make investments in planning, design, and restoration projects that:

- **Identify or implement nature-based solutions**
- **Benefit coastal communities by reducing threats from coastal hazards**
- **Benefit fish and wildlife habitat**
- Additional consideration will be given to projects that address the disproportionate risks faced by **underserved communities**, projects that are **community led** or incorporate direct community outreach and engagement, and projects that incorporate **innovative, sustainable, or transferable approaches.**
- Projects **must be located within the coastal areas** of U.S. coastal states, including the Great Lakes states, and U.S. territories and tribal lands.
- Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations.

SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG)

Restore America's Estuaries

$2.8 M in 2024
Up to $500,000 / project
33% match

RFP Open through April 5

www.snepgrants.org

PROJECT TYPES

- Clean Water, Healthy Ecosystems, Sustainable Communities
- Includes stormwater, river & wetland restoration, coastal resilience, urban restoration, environmental justice, etc.
- Fund all project stages & costs
- Up to 2 year grants
- Reimbursable federal funding requires non-fed match

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Holistic projects with multiple benefits
- New or sustainable partnerships
- Regional information-sharing
- Public engagement
- Realistic path toward implementation
- Non-profits, municipalities, state and tribal governments, academic institutions, etc.
- Letter of intent (pre-application) followed by invited full proposal
- Looking for projects that will lead to or implement actual environmental improvements on the ground or in the water

SNEP Funding Opportunities

SOAR
Funding amount:
$1.25M each year
$50,000 - $300,000 per award
No match required

Important dates: Applications are now open
April 16th Informational Webinar
Submit questions via email by May 1st
Applications due by 11:59pm EST June 7th, 2024

Important Website Link:
https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/352728

Contact: SECoastalNE@epa.gov

NETWORK
Funding amount:
$8.75M over 5 years, 2024-2029
One awardee
Minimum 20% match required

Important dates: Applications are now open
Submit questions via email by April 12th
Applications due by 11:59pm EST May 1st, 2024

Link to RFA:
https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/352296

Contact: SECoastalNE@epa.gov

SNEP Opportunity to Advance Resilience (SOAR) Fund

Mission: To improve and support the climate resilience of disadvantaged communities throughout the SNEP region with meaningful community involvement as it relates to the design and implementation of projects to address the anticipated effects of climate change and the historic, long-term impacts of environmental and social injustices.

Project Categories: Planning, Implementation, Outreach, Training, and Capacity Building/ Staffing

Funding:

- $1,250,000 total (to be recompeted annually - $5M invested by 2027)
- $50,000 - $300,000 per grant
- No match requirement
- Project period up to five years
- Awards to be fully funded (no incremental awards)

SNEP Technical Assistance Network

- Goal: To continue the facilitation of the SNEP Network
- Project period October 2024 – September 2029
- Provide a range of no-cost services and support to local Tribes, communities, and environmental organizations
- Eligible applicants: State, Local, Tribal Governments, Institutions of Higher Education, Nonprofit Institutions and Organizations, Interstate Agencies
- Work must occur in SNEP region

Questions?

Instructions for entering funder rooms

- We will now be moving to Zoom meeting rooms
- Links to the funder rooms can be found in the **webinar chat**, in the linked **PDF**, and in your **email** (check your inbox!)
- You can move around freely between meetings by clicking on the link for the corresponding meeting room
- **You will not need to return to the webinar when done in the meeting rooms**

If you're having trouble, come back to the main webinar and message the hosts using the chat function

Meet the Funders!

Room	Funding Program(s)
1	• Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program • Coastal Resilience Grants (CZM) • Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grant
2	• MassDEP (604(b)) and the Nonpoint Source Competitive (319) grant programs; Watershed Planning Program; MS4 Municipal Assistance Program;Water Quality Management Planning • SRF/ BIL Funding Tech Assistance • CW SRF Program (MassDEP)
3	• DER Restoration Partnerships Program • DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program
4	• NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund • SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG) • SNEP Program Grants