Eligibility

What types of organizations are eligible to apply?

- Non-profit 501(c) organizations, state, tribal and local governments, and educational institutions are eligible to receive funding.

Are public schools eligible to apply?

- Yes. We can provide funding to schools and churches in addition to 501(c)3 organizations.

Is an organization that currently has a LISSF grant eligible to apply for additional funding?

- Yes, organizations with active grants are eligible to receive additional grants.

Does an organization need to be registered as a charity in CT or NY to be eligible to apply?

- We can fund any to 501(c)3 organization regardless of where charted as along as the organization has all required documentation in form and content. Please refer to the grant guidelines.

Can an organization submit more than one application? Can an organization receive more than one grant award?

- Yes, an organization may submit multiple applications. It is possible for an organization to receive more than one award under a single funding cycle. However, it is more common for an organization to receive one award.

Can an eligible organization that receives a grant use LISSF funding to contract with a for-profit business in order to complete the project work?

- Yes, LISSF funding can support contracted labor. If possible, please list subcontractors in your application.

What geographic area is eligible to receive funding through the LISSF?

- To be eligible for funding, projects must occur within CT and NY see our Boundary Map.

How closely related should our project be to the information in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Long Island Sound (CCMP)?
• Extremely, directly, intimately related. Your narrative should reference the strategies and specific Implementation Actions of the CCMP. If you cannot do this, you will not be funded.

**Grant Award Details**

**What amount of grant funding can be requested through the LISSF?**

• Grant size will vary based upon Program Priority. “Small Projects with Big Impacts” will receive grants between $5,000 and $15,000. The “Capacity Building”, “Collaboration”, and “Piloting Tools & Strategies” Program Priorities will have grants ranging from $15,000 to $200,000. However, few if any grants will be made at the maximum award level of $200,000. Any proposal that is requesting $50,000 or more should demonstrate regional value, robust partnerships, and dramatic impact. If you are not preparing a regional proposal in deep collaboration with at least two other partners, don’t bother asking for the big money.

**Can a single project apply to multiple Program Priorities?**

• No. While some projects will obviously fit in more than one, you must pick ONE Program Priority. Choose well, as it is the most important choice you will make in your application.

**If our proposal is selected, when will we find out, and when will we receive funds?**

• Notification of a successful proposal and contracting and payment (in most cases) expecting to commence in April 2022.

**The RFP states applicant organizations may submit up to two proposals per organization. Does that limit apply if we are listed as a “partner” in proposals submitted by another applicant organization?**

• The limit does not apply if you are a partner to the “applicant of record.”

**Program Priorities**

**What do you mean by “Capacity Building” and how does it differ from general operating support?**

• Capacity Building proposals should focus on new investments made in an organization to change aspects of its operations. These grants are not designed to overcome an “incapacity to pay for” existing aspects of the organization. Thus, purchasing new software (and implanting it) is Capacity Building, while paying the subscription cost of previously implemented software is not. Hiring a new development associate for the first time is Capacity Building, whereas paying for the development associate who has worked with your organization for five years is not.
We are a volunteer-based organization who wants to increase our capacity by requesting funds for a paid position to develop new and manage existing projects... would this grant program consider funding this position?

- See above. And... in a proposal describe how this position specifically increases organizational capacity to deliver conservation activities that help restore and protect Long Island Sound.

We work with lots of folks. Does that mean we qualify for funding under the “Collaboration” Program Priority?

- No. This Program Priority is designed to foster organizations working together for the first time, or in new ways. Your proposal should highlight what is new and different about your collaboration (the partners, the community served, the methods employed, etc.).

Is full fee or easement acquisition eligible to be funded?

- No.