LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP FUND (LISSF) 2024
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

What types of organizations are eligible to apply?

- Non-profit 501(c)(3) public charities are eligible to receive funding.

Are public schools eligible to apply?

- No.   We only provide funding to 501(c)(3) public charities.

What if we have a fiscal sponsor?

- Your fiscal sponsor can be the applicant if it is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

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

- We can fund any 501(c)(3) public charity regardless of where it is incorporated as long as the organization has all required documentation and is in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service per the Publication 78 Data. However, see our geographic boundaries below as the project must be in this area.

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

- To be eligible for funding, projects must occur within CT and NY in the Long Island Sound Study area. See our Boundary Map.

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

- Yes, organizations with active grants are eligible to receive additional grants. However, you must be up to date on your reporting requirements for those grants. Your narrative should include a summary of progress associated with the active grant(s) relative to the promised deliverables.

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

- Yes, an organization may submit up to two proposals. 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.

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?

- No. If you are a partner to another "applicant of record," that does not count against your limit.

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

- Yes, LISSF funding can support contracted labor. If possible, please list subcontractors or types of subcontractors you plan to engage in your application.

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 themes and 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 amounts will range from $15,000 to $200,000. However, few if any grants will be made at the maximum award level of $200,000. Any proposal requesting $50,000 or more should demonstrate regional value, robust partnerships, and measurable impact. Any organization requesting a grant of $100,000 or more must contact info@lisfc.org by 5pm (ET) on December 28, 2023. Large grant awards are generally reserved for organizations working on regional projects in deep collaboration with at least two other partners.

Can a single project apply to multiple Program Priorities?

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

What happened to the "Small Project, Big Impact" Priority?

- This category has been eliminated. Smaller projects that are start-up or piloting efforts should consider the "Piloting Tools & Strategies" Priority.

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) are expected to commence in April 2024.

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 implementing 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. If you are applying for funding for a new staff member, please include a sustainability plan for that position.

We are a volunteer-based organization that 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?

- Yes, but see above.   The proposal should describe how this position specifically increases organizational capacity to deliver conservation activities that help restore and protect Long Island Sound. It would also be wise to speak to how the position will be maintained over time.

We work with lots of folks. Does that mean we qualify for funding under the "New 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.