

**Fact Sheet****GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE**
**United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 1
Southeast New England Program for Coastal Watershed Restoration**

The U.S. EPA is soliciting initial proposals (brief pre-proposals) from eligible entities to support priorities of the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) for coastal watershed restoration by advancing ecosystem resiliency, protecting and restoring water quality, habitat, and ecosystem function, and developing and applying innovative policy, science, and technology to environmental management in southeast coastal New England.

How Much is Available? \$7,000,000 over Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017. Individual awards are anticipated to be between \$250,000 and a maximum of \$1,000,000. The total project period may be up to four years. Applicants must provide a minimum non-federal match of 10 percent of the award.

Who is Eligible to Apply? State, local, territorial, and tribal governments; institutions of higher education; nonprofit institutions and organizations; intertribal consortia; and interstate agencies. Private businesses, federal agencies, and individuals are not eligible to be grant recipients; however, they are encouraged to work in partnership with eligible applicants on projects. Applicants are not limited to the geographic area of southeastern coastal New England, however, projects must be carried out within the SNEP geographic region, and applicants are encouraged to have at least one local partner from within the geographic area specified in the competitive funding announcement.

How Many Initial Proposals Can I Submit? The RFP states that "there is a funding limit of up to one award per applicant under this announcement" (page 9). However, there is no limit as to the number of initial proposals that can be submitted. In these situations, we advise potential applicants to not self-select proposals or limit the number of proposals they submit. It is impossible to predict how proposals will fare against projects from other applicants, and your preferred project may not be funded, so applicants should always submit all of their good proposals, and let the reviewers decide.

What Projects are Eligible? EPA is encouraging projects that will use SNEP as the framework to support innovations in practices, technology, and policies that link environmental quality to economic opportunity and jobs and deliver local solutions in a regional and watershed context. The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable path for change and to lead the next generation of environmental management through the following priorities:

- **Innovative Restoration and Protection Approaches:** developing and investing in innovative, cost-effective restoration and protection practices - especially for nutrient management and adaptation to climate change - that apply new policy, economic, and technology approaches, including financing mechanisms;
- **Strategic Collaboration and Regional Impact:** delivering programs more effectively to the public by engaging in collaboration among states and appropriate agencies, tribes, partners, stakeholders, and resource managers that builds long-term program capacity, enhances municipalities' ability to finance and participate in environmental management programs, and improves information sharing and transferability across the region and among diverse programs;
- **Integrating Habitat and Water Quality:** designing and implementing on-the-ground restoration projects that integrate habitat and ecological restoration with water quality improvement, especially reduction of nutrient impacts, and offer effective and sustainable paths to ecological resiliency; and/or
- **Focus on Connectivity and Ecosystem Services and Functions:** identifying and sustaining ecosystem services and functions, including demonstrating the public health, social, and economic benefits provided by environmental quality.

Proposals must address one or more of these priorities within the SNEP geographic area (Fig. 1) by building program capacity through projects, networks and/or partnerships of governmental and community resource managers, technology and science practitioners, policy organizations, and other groups that seek to apply collaborative and innovative approaches. Subcontractors and partners may participate on more than one funded application.

Under this announcement, EPA intends to fund large-scale projects in areas such as:

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- planning, design, and construction of restoration projects that promote watershed or ecosystem connectivity;
- adoption and implementation of innovative financing, governance, or management policies;
- development, testing, and adoption of technology and policy that advance environmental improvements or protection;
- new approaches for environmental monitoring, including water quality monitoring, testing and adoption of methods, equipment, data synthesis, analysis and interpretation, citizen science, and best management practices (BMPs) and treatment technology effectiveness;
- technical training in new or adapted approaches; and/or
- information sharing and targeted/applied research.

What are the Deadlines? Application to the SNEP program has two steps, with applicants first submitting an initial proposal (pre-proposal) with no more than 4 pages of narrative, a budget page, and the SF-424 Application page. The deadline for initial proposals is January 22, 2016. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal. The deadline for invited full proposals is April 12, 2016.

How do I Submit a Proposal? Electronic submission of the initial proposal must be made at Grants.gov by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. If your organization has never registered with Grants.gov, you must first register with Sam.gov to establish your organization's identity and financial information. For more information on the registration requirements that must be completed in order to submit an application through Grants.gov, go to www.grants.gov and click on "Applicants" on the top of the page and then go to the "Get Registered" link on the page. If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office or organization to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible, as it may take a couple of weeks to register with all the sites.

What If I Need Help? The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) can provide guidance, technical support, and materials, such as maps or other information, for your application to the SNEP program. Please contact Sarah Williams at the Buzzards Bay NEP at (508)291-3625 ext. 13 or Sarah.Williams@state.ma.us to discuss how we can assist you. The Buzzards Bay NEP can also partner with organizations in implementing a project if the work meets the goals and mission of the NEP, and where we have available resources.

Such technical support may include GIS data development, data analysis, online outreach, inventories of management databases, and other general support. To request either guidance or sustained participation in a project, please complete the attached form.

Where Do I Go for More Information? The RFR may be downloaded from the following website:

www.epa.gov/snecwrp/funding-opportunities-southeast-new-england-coastal-watershed-restoration-program

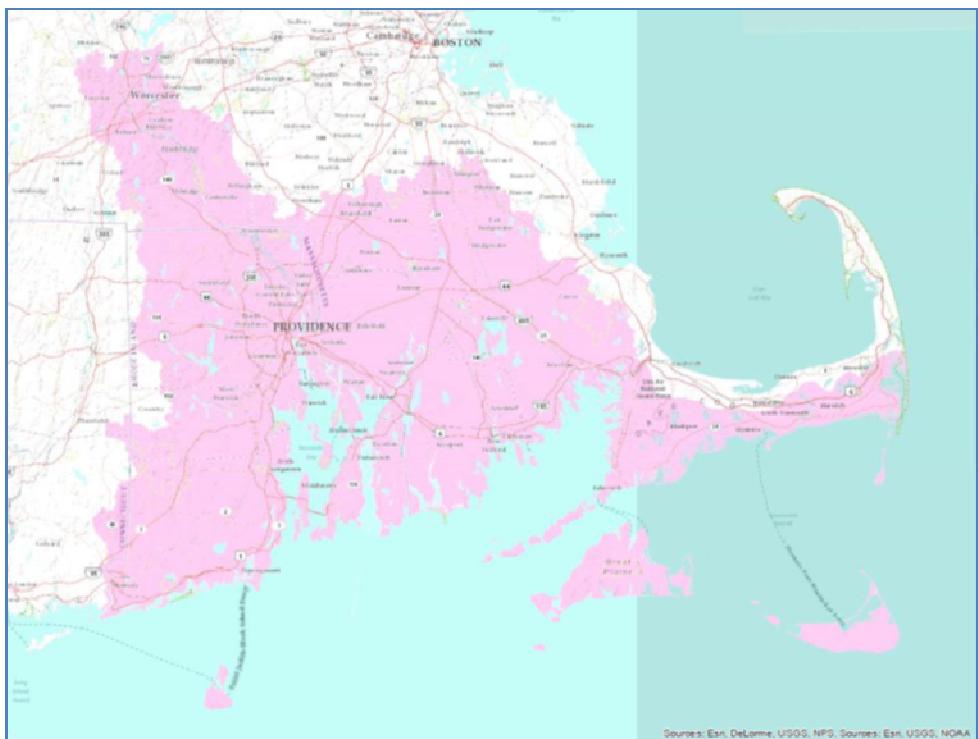


Fig. 1 Geographic area of eligible projects under SNEP