



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

CT DEEP Long Island Sound Ecosystems Grant: Habitat Restoration and Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Issued By: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Date Released: October 1, 2025

Submission Deadline: December 16, 2025 at 11:59pm

Introduction

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is dedicated to conserving, improving, and protecting our natural resources and the environment while supporting strategies that ensure long-term environmental health and public well-being. The CT DEEP Long Island Sound Ecosystems Grant will advance these goals by funding projects that restore coastal habitats and implement green stormwater infrastructure techniques. Through this Ecosystems Grant, DEEP aims to invest in efforts that protect and restore the natural systems we depend on today to ensure their function and value for future generations.

DEEP's Land and Water Resources Division requests proposals for the CT DEEP Long Island Sound Ecosystems Grant through December 16, 2025 at 11:59 pm. There is approximately \$7 million available; no match is required. This grant program is made possible by financial support provided by the Long Island Sound Partnership (LISP) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Program Goals

This funding program has two primary goals: 1) to promote large-scale habitat restoration and enhance restoration planning, while also helping coastal communities and ecosystems adapt to changing environmental conditions; and 2) to further promote the application of green stormwater infrastructure techniques to reduce nonpoint source pollution, improving water resource quality.

This grant program is expected to fund a range of projects, including those that need planning, engineering and design, as well as those that are ready for construction. DEEP strongly encourages proposals that are ready for construction and located in municipalities with a greater percentage of developed area, as defined by [CLEAR's 2015 Land Use Cover viewer](#).

All potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the Ecosystems Grant question and answer (Q&A) sessions and/or reach out to DEEP.EcosystemsGrant@ct.gov for advice and guidance on preparing a strong grant proposal. Q&As will be hosted by a technical advisor that will not be part of the DEEP evaluation committee for final approvals of awards. Site visits are not required but are strongly encouraged; reach out to DEEP.EcosystemsGrant@ct.gov to schedule.

Eligible Applicants

State government agencies, local governments, councils of government, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, academic institutions, federally recognized tribes, and state recognized tribes are eligible to apply.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects in this program must fall into **one of two** main categories:

1. Habitat Restoration

- a. This category provides funding for **planning/engineering/design** and **construction** for habitat restoration projects. Proposals must select one or the other. Proposals that have obtained final permits and are ready for construction will be prioritized.
- b. Examples of projects could include but are not limited to enhancing or restoring important coastal habitat types (e.g., tidal marsh) and reducing riverine barriers to fish passage (e.g., under-sized culverts and dams).
- c. Planning/engineering/design expected funding range: \$100,000 to \$500,000
- d. Construction expected funding range: \$200,000 to \$1,500,000
- e. This category will use attachment A.1 for the application and D.1 for the evaluation criteria.
- f. Projects that solely result in municipal planning documents are not eligible
- g. Planning projects should establish a project pipeline for construction including: 1) community engagement, planning and prioritization; 2) feasibility, suitability or alternatives analyses; 3) site assessment and conceptual design; and 4) final design and permits.
- h. Projects must be located within the [Long Island Sound Partnership \(LISP\) Coastal Boundary](#) in Connecticut, except fish passage projects, which must be located with the [Long Island Sound \(LIS\) Watershed](#).

2. Green Stormwater Infrastructure

- a. This category provides funding for **planning/engineering/design** and **construction** for green stormwater infrastructure projects. Proposals may request funding for one or both.
- b. Projects must focus on any of the following: reducing stormwater runoff and flooding, replenishing groundwater through infiltration, reducing urban heat island effects, enhancing riparian buffers
- c. Examples of projects could include but are not limited to bioretention practices, bioswales, rain gardens, permeable pavements, green streets, rainwater harvesting, green roofs
- d. Planning/engineering/design expected funding range: \$75,000 to \$200,000
- e. Construction expected funding range: \$200,000 to \$900,000
- f. This category will use attachment A.2 for the application and D.2 for the evaluation criteria.
- g. Planning projects should establish a project pipeline for construction projects including: 1) community engagement, planning and prioritization; 2) feasibility, suitability or alternatives analyses; 3) site assessment and conceptual design; and 4) final design and permits.
- h. Projects must be located within the [LIS Watershed Boundary](#) in Connecticut

Requests for grants that exceed the expected funding ranges will be considered, but only for exceptional and well-justified proposals. More than one proposal may be submitted for consideration by an individual applicant. For those applicants who have previously received funding through DEEP, past performance will be a factor considered in the proposal review process. Proposals for activities that fulfill requirements of permits (e.g., compensatory mitigation) or enforcement actions are not eligible.

Additional Program Requirements

- Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) are required for projects that will be collecting environmental data/information
- All projects must support one or more goals of the [2025 LISP Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan \(CCMP\)](#)
- All projects must build adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities
- Proposals must demonstrate support from the landowner and all key partners
- Construction projects (>\$250,000) will be subject to the Buy America Sourcing requirements under the [Build America, Buy America Act requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) \(P.L. 117-58, §§70911-70917\)](#)
- Construction projects will be expected to incorporate maintenance and/or monitoring plans into their scope of work
- There are additional program requirements regarding outreach signage, public or media events, and announcements that will be provided if awarded

Evaluation Criteria

Each of the grant program categories (habitat restoration and green stormwater infrastructure) have their own corresponding criteria. Please see attachments D.1 and D.2.

Guidelines for Submitting a Proposal

See program application templates. Applications eligible for evaluation must:

- 1) Be received on or before the due date and time;
- 2) Use the templates provided;
- 3) Meet the requirements in the NOFO;
- 4) Be complete.

A complete proposal will include a complete application, budget, and timeline on the provided templates, site map, applicable letters of support (optional), and any other supporting documents (optional). Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a letter of support from the property owner. Rather than requesting a letter of support from any DEEP programs that have been consulted about the project, please describe their involvement in the application's narrative. Please combine all of your letters of support into one PDF and submit it with your other materials. Once submitted, no changes to proposals will be allowed unless invited by DEEP to submit a revised application.

Proposals that fail to follow instructions or satisfy submission requirements will not be reviewed further. The Agency will reject any proposal that deviates significantly from the requirements of this NOFO.

Applications submitted after the due date and time will be ineligible and will not be evaluated. DEEP will email late applicants of ineligibility.

DEEP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, modify or terminate the NOFO, or require additional information from applicants. All proposals submitted in response to this NOFO are to be the sole property of the State.

Applications will be submitted via email; contact DEEP.EcosystemsGrant@ct.gov if you need other accommodations.

Match

There is no match requirement for this grant program.

Reimbursement

DEEP will issue reimbursable grants, funded through contracts, for the selected proposals. Payment for the granted activities will occur according to the terms of the state contract. Reimbursement can only be issued for costs incurred during the grant period – no reimbursements will be issued for expenditures made prior to the receipt of a fully executed contract or after the contract has expired. Recipients must submit reimbursement requests on at least a quarterly basis and provide proof that payments have been made for project expenses (e.g. canceled checks, paid invoices or bank statements).

Ownership and Credit Due

Access to any deliverables, guidance documents, maps, reports, or other work product materials produced through the grant program shall be provided to DEEP and DEEP will share them with the EPA.

Recipients who collect data as part of their project will be required to make raw data and results publicly available and readily transferable for use by other organizations. All materials created through this opportunity and as a result of this award shall credit CT DEEP and the EPA's Long Island Sound Partnership.

Reporting

Throughout the duration of the project, the project team must submit quarterly progress reports to DEEP outlining project updates and identifying if any technical assistance is needed from DEEP (a template will be provided to all grantees). At the conclusion of the project, a final report and a final financial report must be submitted to DEEP. DEEP may also request pre- and post construction site visits.

Timeline

Projects selected for funding must be completed within two years from the contract execution date. For most organizations it typically takes 4-6 months to establish a contract with DEEP. It typically takes 8-12 months for state tribes. Proposals that do not have permits in-hand should add 12 months to their timeline to obtain them. Seasonal constraints that may prolong the project duration must also be accounted for. Proposals that demonstrate a commitment to maintain and continue the project beyond

the initial period in which it is implemented without DEEP funding support are encouraged and will receive additional consideration.

Applications are due December 16, 2025, at 11:59 PM. DEEP and partners will support grantees with technical assistance within available resources and host two Q & A events for grantees.

Recipients will be notified of their awards in early 2026. If awarded, recipients will be notified by DEEP via email that the contracting process has begun (see sample contract in Appendix I).

Event	Date
NOFO Released	October 1, 2025
Q & A Session	October 16, 2025 at 1pm-2pm
Q & A Session	November 18, 2025 at 10am-11am
Office Hours	December 9, 2025 at 2pm-4pm
NOFO Closed	December 16, 2025 at 11:59pm
Award Notifications Sent	Early 2026

Award Process

The following outlines the general award process.

1. Applicants will receive an email or letter acknowledging receipt of their application
2. Applications will be assessed by an internal review team for eligibility and given a score according to the program eligibility requirements and funding criteria (Attachments D.1, D.2).
3. A short list of selected projects will be created based on DEEP technical review team evaluation score and recommendations. Higher scoring projects and diverse project types will be prioritized.
4. Applicants will be notified by DEEP via email of the decision. In some cases, the DEEP technical review team may recommend modifications of a project proposal or will recommend funding a dollar amount which differs from the proposal.
5. Following approval of the project application including any requested modifications, a contract will be drafted and emailed out via Docusign for signature by the grant recipient and returned for subsequent state contract approval. Additional documentation may also be requested at this time, this includes but is not limited to a certified resolution and insurance documentation.
6. Project work to be funded by the grant cannot begin until the execution date of the contract.
7. Project funding cannot be released until a fully executed contract is in effect.

Awards will be delivered upon entering into a contract with the State. DEEP reserves the right to negotiate or contract for all or any portion of the services contained in this NOFO.

DEEP will make awards in accordance with program priorities and the availability of funding. Selected awardees will be required to comply with EPA federal terms and conditions.

If an applicant has questions about this process prior to applying, they can contact DEEP at DEEP.EcosystemsGrant@ct.gov.

Contact Information

Mindy Gosselin – Ecosystems Grant Program Lead, Land Acquisition and Restoration Coordinator
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Email: DEEP.EcosystemsGrant@ct.gov

Phone: (860) 424-3568

Alternative Funding Opportunities

Applicants should be aware of additional funding opportunities for various Long Island Sound related topics through the Long Island Sound Partnership. For more information about these programs, visit the EPA Long Island Sound Partnership website at: <https://lispartnership.org/about/grants/>. For information about broader environmental funding opportunities within Connecticut, please visit the DEEP website at: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/business-and-financial-assistance/grants-financial-assistance/grants-and-financial-assistance>.

If your proposal is not selected for this award, it could be considered for funding through other grant programs administered by DEEP.

Terms and Conditions

A NOFO is not an offer. Neither this NOFO nor any subsequent discussions shall give rise to any commitment on the part of the State or the Agency or confer any rights on any applicant unless and until a contract is fully executed by the necessary parties. A sample contract is attached in Appendix I and includes the State's pertinent Standard Terms and Conditions. The contract document will represent the entire agreement between the applicant and DEEP and will supersede all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, alleged or made, between the parties. The State shall assume no liability for costs incurred by the applicant or for payment of services under the terms of the contract until the successful applicant is notified that the contract has been accepted and approved by the Agency and, if required, by the Attorney General's Office.

By submitting an application in response to this NOFO, an applicant implicitly agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions:

- a. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. The State is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its hiring, employment, or business practices. The State is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities.
- b. Preparation Expenses. Neither the State nor the Agency shall assume any liability for expenses incurred by an applicant in preparing, submitting, or clarifying any proposal submitted in response to this NOFO.
- c. Exclusion of Taxes. The Agency is exempt from the payment of excise and sales taxes imposed by the federal government and the State. Applicants are liable for any other applicable taxes.
- d. Federal terms. The resulting contract will be funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency and consequently will contain applicable federal terms and conditions. The contract will be

subject to controlling federal statutes and regulations, including, but not limited to, compliance with the federal Civil Rights Act and policies, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), registration with SAM.gov and UEI and financial reporting. For more information on the Federal terms required of non-Federal entities as subgrantees, see the “Standard Terms and Conditions” section of the sample DEEP contract (Appendix I).

- e. Insurance: At its sole expense, the applicant shall, during the entire term of this contract, maintain insurance reflecting the following limits:
 - i. General Liability insurance providing a total limit of \$1,000,000 for all damages arising out of bodily injury to or death of all persons in any accident or occurrence and for all damages arising out of injury to or destruction of property in any one accident or occurrence. In cases where any insurance policy shows an aggregate limit, the aggregate limit shall not be less than \$2,000,000. Coverage is to include products and completed operations.
 - ii. The operation of all motor vehicles, including those hired or borrowed, used in connection with this contract shall be covered by Automobile Liability insurance providing for a total limit of \$1,000,000 for all damages arising out of bodily injuries or death of all persons in any one accident or occurrence, for all damages arising out of injury or destruction of property in any one accident or occurrence. In cases where an insurance policy shows an aggregate limit, the limit shall not be less than \$2,000,000.
 - iii. The State of Connecticut shall be listed as Additional Insured on the coverages specified above in Subsections i and ii, and written evidence of that listing shall be included with the evidence of insurance.
 - iv. Said coverages are to be provided by insurance companies licensed by the State of Connecticut and in effect and renewed yearly upon expiration for the entire contract duration.
- f. Conflict of Interest – Disclosure Statement
Applicants must include a disclosure statement concerning any current business relationships (within the last three (3) years) that pose a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85. A conflict of interest exists when a relationship exists between the applicant and a public official (including an elected official) or State employee that may interfere with fair competition or may be adverse to the interests of the State. The existence of a conflict of interest is not, in and of itself, evidence of wrongdoing. A conflict of interest may, however, become a legal matter if an applicant tries to influence, or succeeds in influencing, the outcome of an official decision for their personal or corporate benefit. In the absence of any conflict of interest, an applicant must affirm such in the disclosure statement. Example: “[name of applicant] has no current business relationship (within the last three (3) years) that poses a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85.”
- g. Assurances -By submitting a proposal in response to this NOFO, an applicant implicitly gives the following assurances:
Collusion. The applicant represents and warrants that the applicant did not participate in any part of the NOFO development process and had no knowledge of the specific contents of the NOFO prior to its issuance. The applicant further represents and warrants that no agent,

representative, or employee of the State participated directly in the preparation of the applicant's proposal. The applicant also represents and warrants that the submitted proposal is in all respects fair and is made without collusion or fraud.

**Terms and conditions may be amended prior to the establishment of a contract.*