

RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund
CT DEEP CEEJAC Resource Hour
Request for Applications 2027

The Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) is a partnership among:

- Restore America's Estuaries
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Long Island Sound Partnership

Purpose: The purpose of LISCIF is to provide technical and financial assistance to communities for addressing environmental issues and to improve the quality and accessibility of the Long Island Sound.

Technical assistance will be provided through LISCIF and is available to communities/organizations even if one does not submit a proposal for funding.

Long Island Sound: The Urban Sea



The Long Island Sound Partnership formed in 1985, a bi-state partnership of federal and state agencies, user groups, and concerned groups and individuals dedicated to protecting and restoring this vital estuary.

Home to more than 1200 invertebrates, 170 fish species, and dozens of migratory birds; 9 million people on the watershed.

LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP

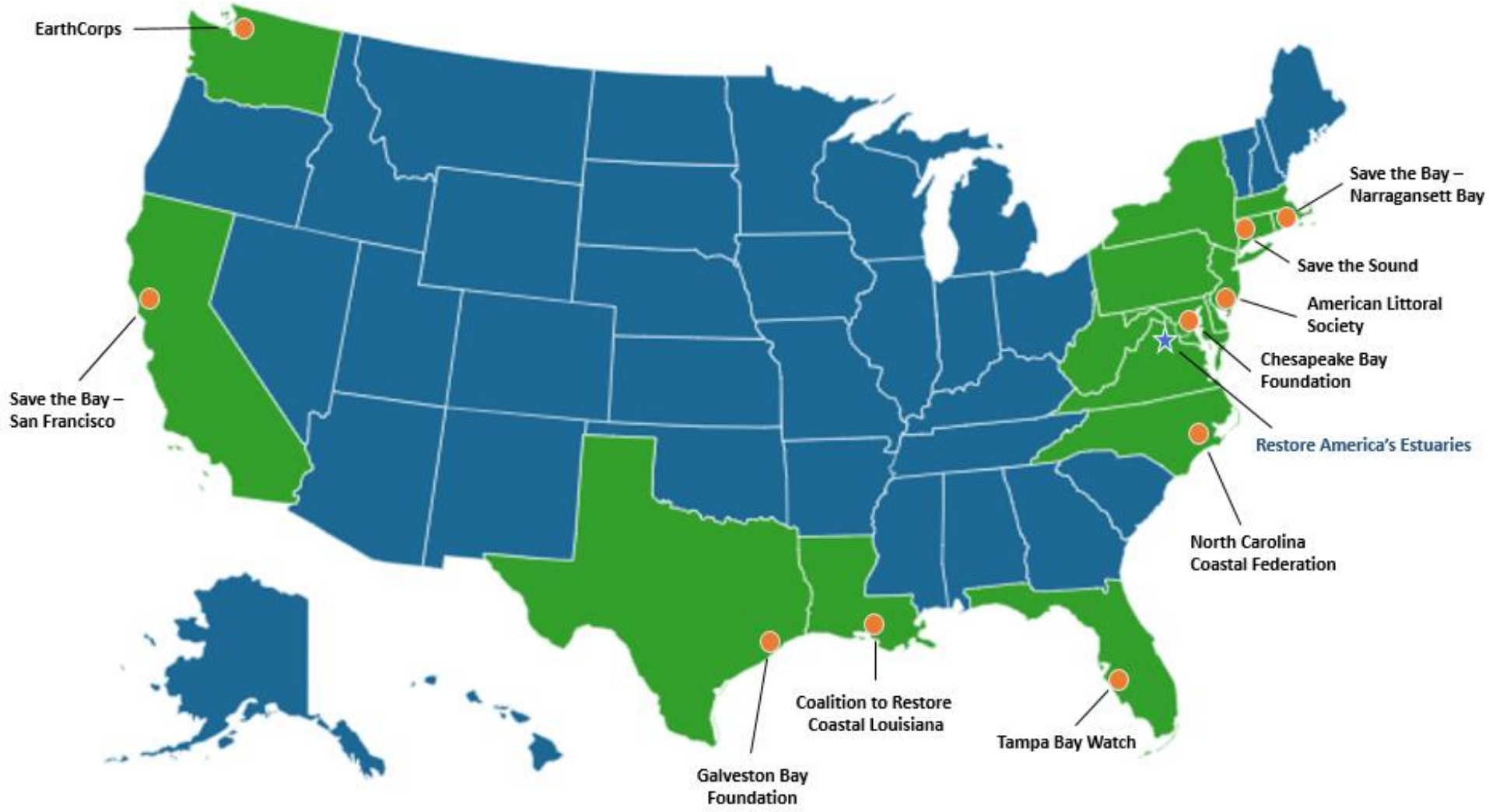
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY Department of Environmental Conservation

CONNECTICUT ENERGY ENVIRONMENT

Slide Source: Long Island Sound Partnership

Restore America's Estuaries is dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation



Affiliate Members

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay | Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership | Audubon Society | Billion Oyster Project | Black in Marine Science | Bonefish & Tarpon Trust | Buzzards Bay Coalition | Choctawatchee Basin Alliance | Clean Foundation | Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation | Ducks Unlimited | Ecosphere Restoration Institute |Environmental Defense Fund | Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Land Trust Alliance | The Nature Conservancy | National Wildlife Federation | Ocean Conservancy | Pontchartrain Conservancy | Restore the Mississippi River Delta | Women's Aquatic Network

Agenda

- Overview of the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF)
- Eligibility
- Project Requirements
- Budget
- Application Process & Deadlines
- Resources



Photo by Vicki Hess from Pexels: https://www.pexels.com/photo/panoramic-photo-of-river-1000069/

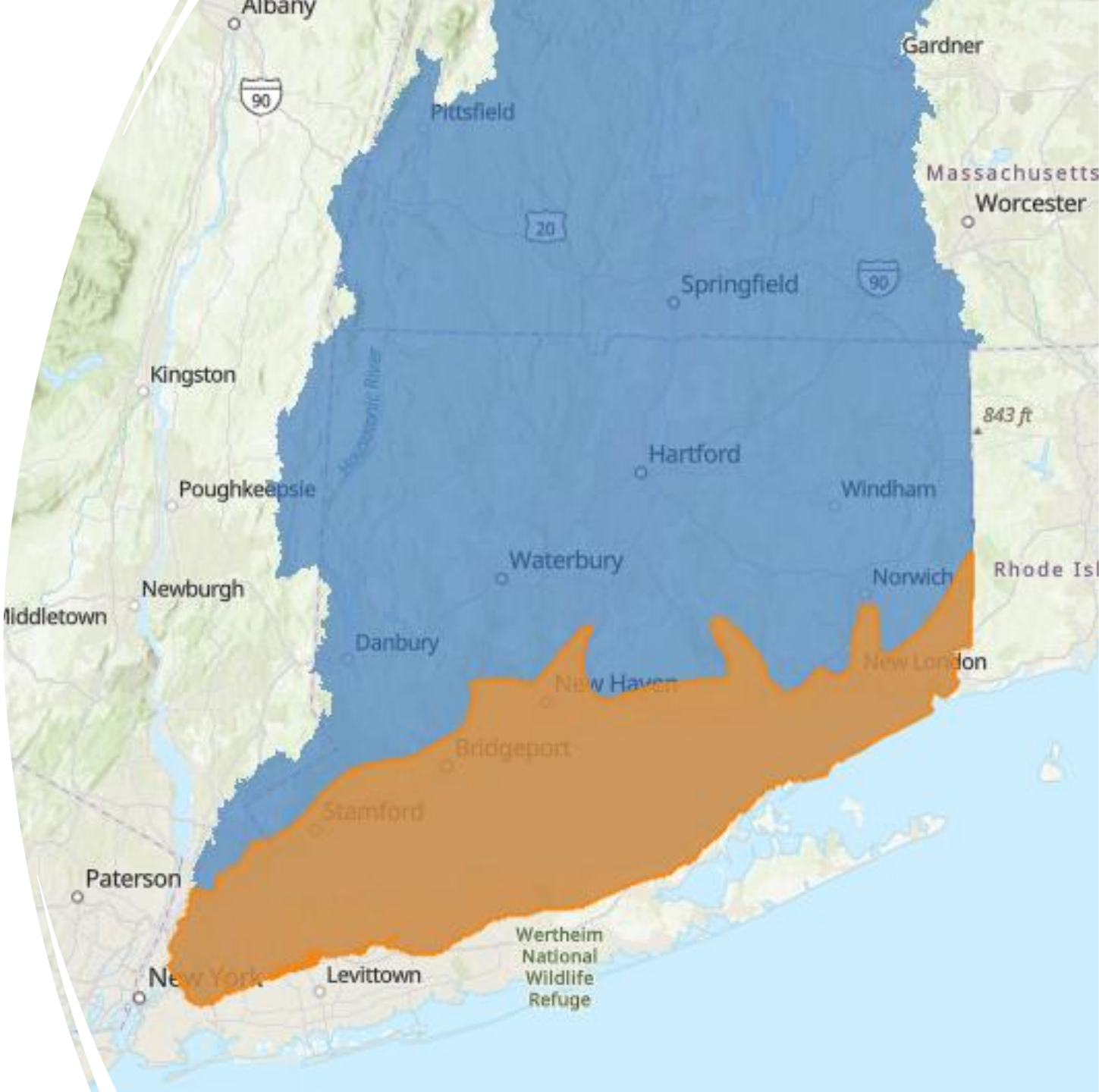
Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) Program Goals

- Program Overview:
  - For LISCIF 2027 - RAE will award up to $1,200,000 in federal funds
  - Typical awards will range from about $5,000 to $100,000
  - Annual Learning Exchange, including stipends to attend conferences
  - Investment in training programs and grants
  - Prepare local organizations to apply for grant funding through this program and others
  - Strengthen and diversify connections within the Long Island Sound region

Geographic Eligibility

- The LIS Partnership geographic region refers to the Long Island Sound watershed area within New York and Connecticut for the purpose of this project.

- An interactive map of the region: ArcGIS - Interactive LISS National Estuary Program Map



Applicant Eligibility

- Eligible Applicants include non-profit organizations, Tribes, state, county, local governments, and their subdivisions, and academic institutions.
- Projects funded under LISCIF must address the priorities identified under “Funding Priorities” in the RFA.
- Proposals should target communities experiencing or affected by adverse and disproportionate environmental and human health risks or harms, including affected underserved communities within the LIS geographic boundaries.
- All subaward projects should be community driven or community led.
- Federal agencies are not eligible recipients of funding but may be included as partners in proposals submitted by eligible recipients.
- Organizations may submit multiple LoIs or applications either as a lead organization, or as a partner on another organization’s application. Multiple applications must be submitted separately, and each will be evaluated independent of other proposals. Due to limited funds, it is unlikely more than one award will be given to a single applicant organization.

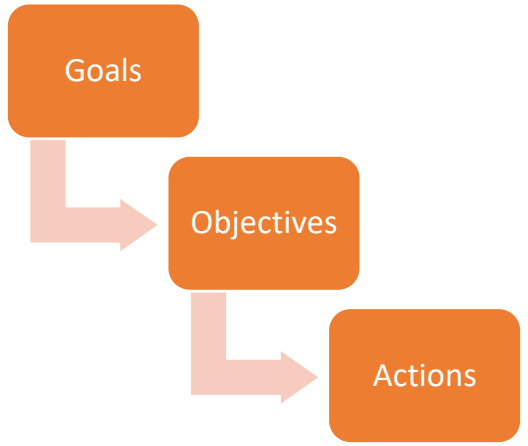
Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)



[Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan]

4 Themes:

- Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds
- Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife
- Sustainable and Resilient Communities
- Informed and Engaged Public



[CCMP Actions]

Themes and Goals of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Source: https://lispartnership.org/2025/06/2025-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan-ccmp/



Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds

Restore and maintain water quality in Long Island Sound and its watershed.

Source: CCMP, The Lower Connecticut River, a Long Island Sound Stewardship Area, Old Lyme, CT. (Photo by Jerry Monkman/Ecophotography)

Source: CCMP, Great Gull Island supports the largest nesting populations of common terns in the world. (Photo by Venu Challa)



Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Restore and protect the health and resilience of habitats and wildlife in Long Island Sound and its ecosystems.



Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Empower Long Island Sound communities to plan and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all.

Source: CCMP, Youth from Rocking the Boat, a Bronx environmental organization, on board a student-built boat on the Bronx River. (Photo by Joaquin Cotten)

Source: CCMP, CTDEEP Scientists conduct trawl surveys of the Sound's marine life, including horseshoe crabs, on board the Research Vessel John Dempsey. (Photo by Richard Howard)



Informed and Engaged Public

Inspire and empower the public to appreciate, value, and protect Long Island Sound and the waters that flow into the Sound.

Program Priorities

Alignment with the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Main Funding Themes:

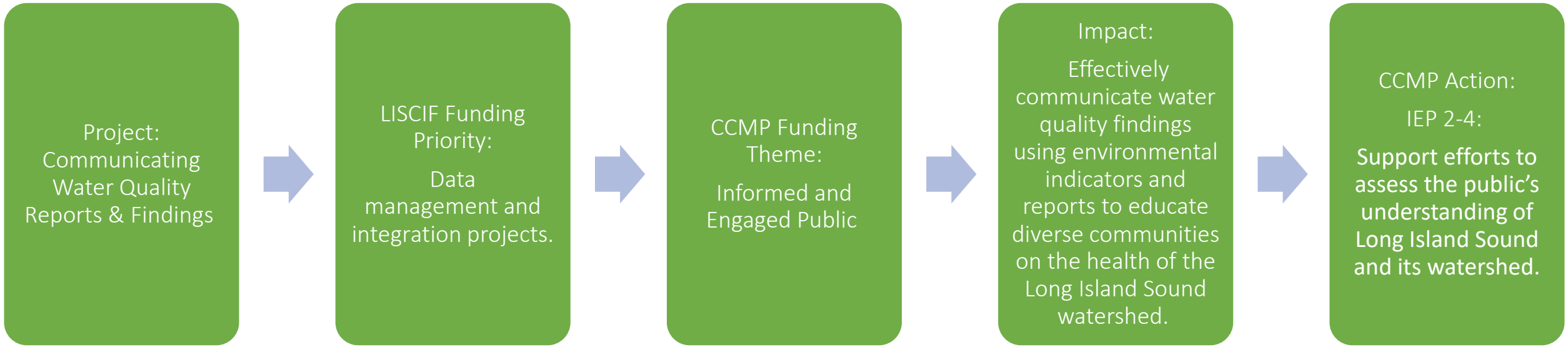
- Clean Waters & Healthy Watersheds
- Thriving Habitats & Abundant Wildlife
- Sustainable & Resilient Communities
- Informed & Engaged Public

1. Projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention or reduction
2. Restoring habitat within the Important Coastal Habitat Types targeted by LIS Partnership
3. Projects that foster diverse, balanced and abundant populations of fish, birds and wildlife
4. Public engagement, knowledge and stewardship
5. Projects that enhance community resilience and sustainability
6. Planning and design that set the stage for implementation of water quality projects, eligible habitat restoration projects and resilience projects
7. Community-based science projects
8. Data management and integration projects
9. Other similar activities that the applicant proposes

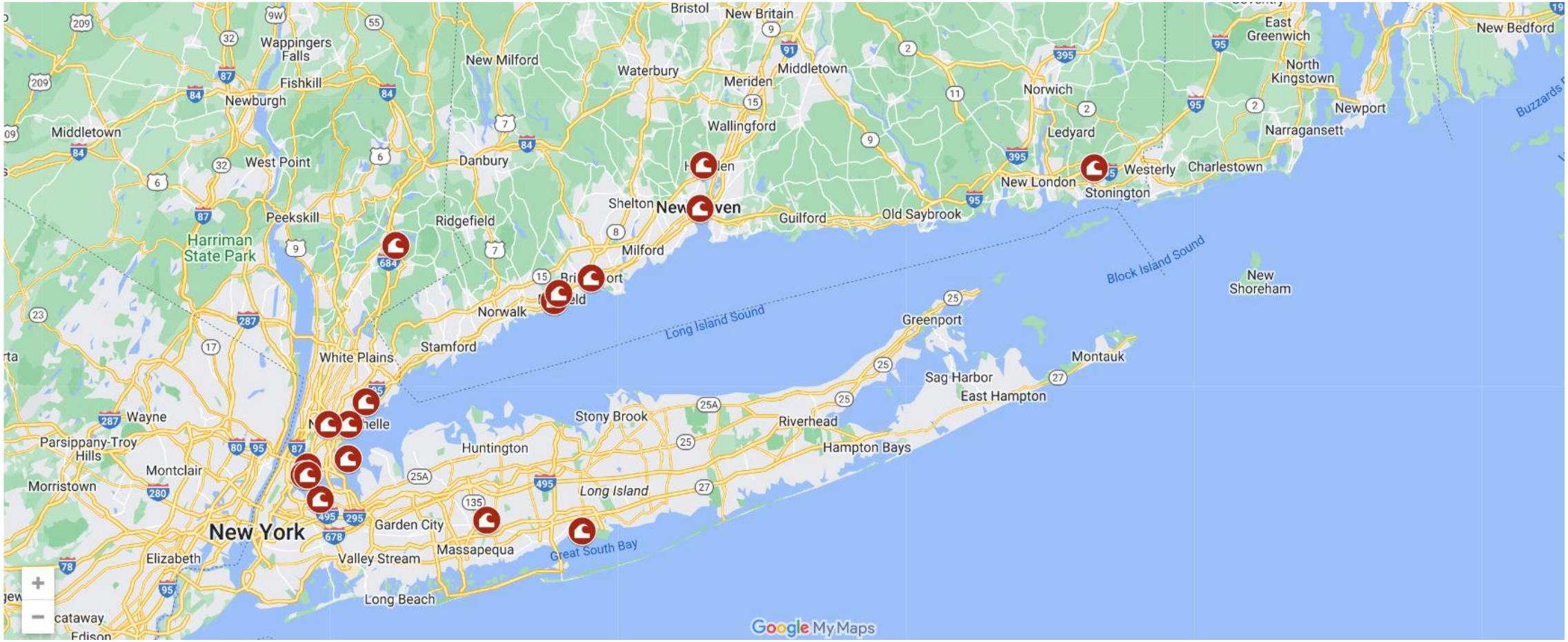
Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF27)

Project Impact Model Example

Example 4: Communicating Water Quality Reports & Findings



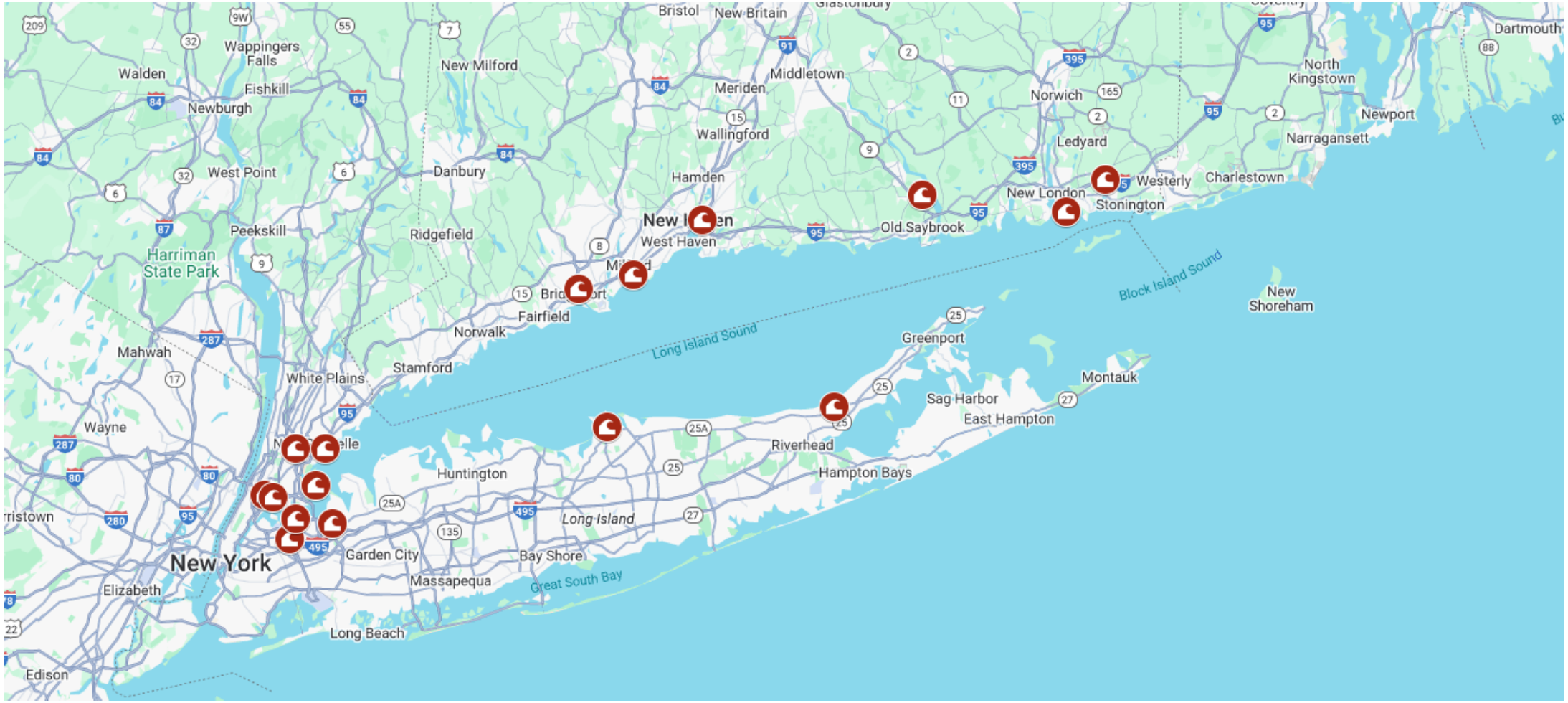
Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2024 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2024 Grant Sheet here:

https://estuaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/LISCIF-Subawardee-Fact-Sheet.pdf

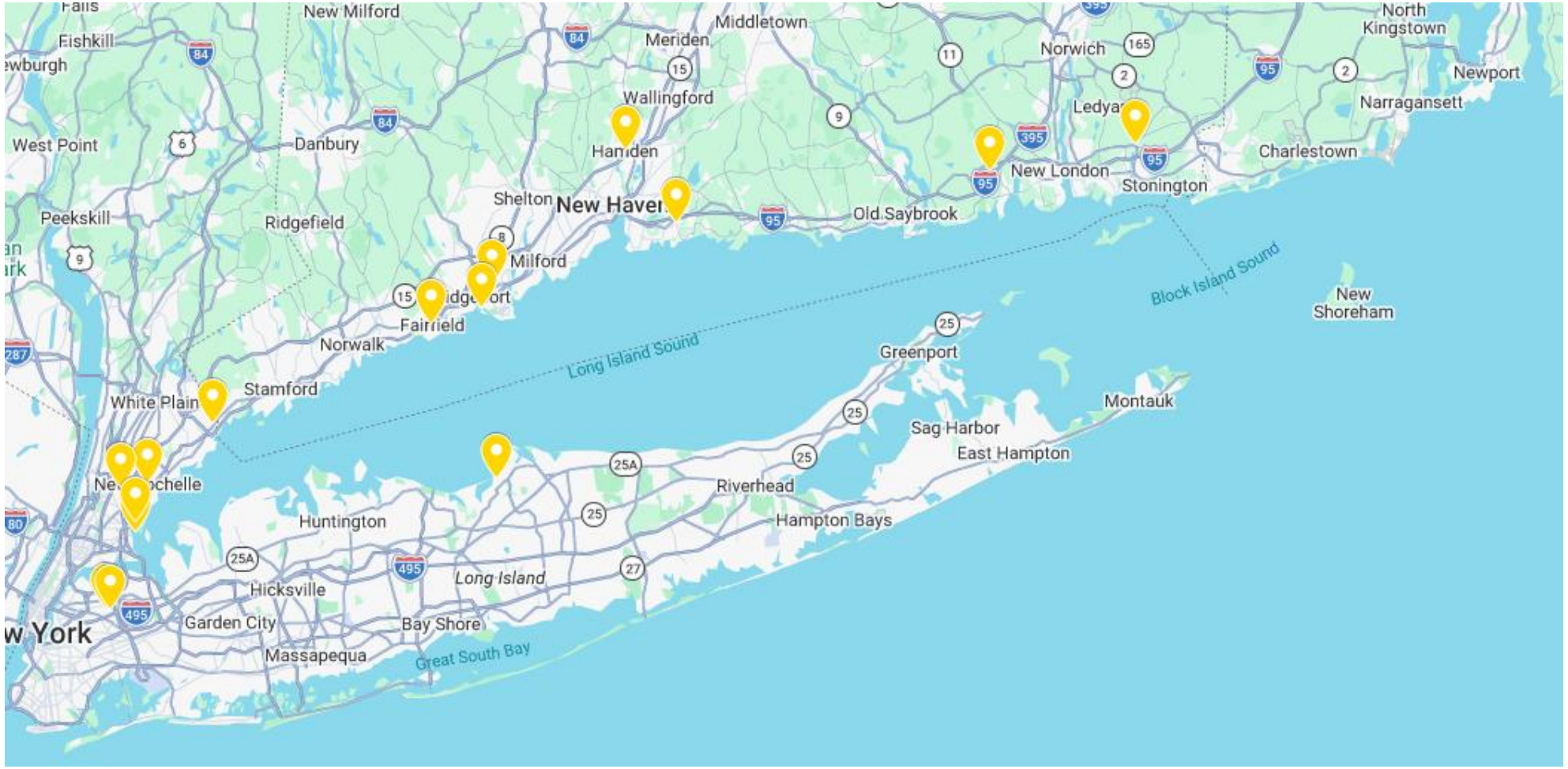
Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2025 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2025 Grant Sheet here:

https://estuaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/LISCIF25-Awardee-Fact-Sheet-1.pdf

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2026 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2026 Grant Sheet here:
https://estuaries.org/liscif-2026-grant-recipients/



Achievement of LISCIF Project Metrics

- Upon completion of a LISCIF-funded project, applicants will summarize results using the LISCIF metric framework.
- Projects will use metrics established by the CCMP, under its Actions.
- As needed, RAE will assist grant recipients in assessing the results of the work, for inclusion in the final report.

LISCIF Applicant Resources

https://estuaries.org/liscif/grant-resources/



Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)



Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Actions



LISCIF Project Case Studies, Examples of Impact Models & Implementation Actions



LISCIF LOI Scoring and Evaluation Rubric



LISCIF Full Proposal Scoring and Evaluation Rubric



LISCIF Excel Budget Template

Use of Funds

- Project Costs
- Salary
- Fringe
- Contractual Support
- Tools & Equipment
- Supplies
- Conferences & Travel
- Indirect Costs



*All grant payments will be made on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursement requests shall be submitted at least quarterly and at most monthly.

*Working Capital Advance: Awardees in need of funds to start projects can request for a Working Capital Advance, which will advance funds for the first two months. Thereafter, funds will be reimbursement based.

Ineligible Uses of Funds

- **Research and Monitoring:** LISCIF will not fund proposals in which the primary purpose is research or monitoring; however, research and monitoring may be funded as part of a larger grant, where the purpose of the research or monitoring is to assess results and outcomes of the grant-funded activity.
- **Actions Legally Required:** LISCIF will not fund actions required to settle a formal enforcement action or included in a court order; nor will it fund actions required as mitigation measures under a state, local, or federal permit for a specific project.
- **Routine Maintenance:** LISCIF will not fund work involving only routine activities to maintain stormwater infrastructure, other facilities, land, or waterbodies.
- **Plans or studies that lack a clear environmental impact or path to implementation:** Plans and studies will be considered for funding only if they are directly relevant to, and provide results that inform, the achievement of CCMP goals, and where applicants can describe a realistic pathway to implementation.
- **Conventional "gray infrastructure" projects:** LISCIF will not fund conventional infrastructure projects using well-established technologies or methods (e.g., installation of sewer lines).
- **Private Construction:** LISCIF will not fund new construction or retrofitting of buildings or facilities serving primarily private purposes, including residential, commercial, and institutional properties.
- **Land Purchase:** Purchase of land or real estate will not be funded.
- **Lobbying:** LISCIF will not fund proposals that involve any attempts to influence the outcomes of any Federal, state, or local election, referendum, initiative, or similar procedure, through in-kind or cash contributions, endorsements, publicity, or similar activity.

Budget

LISCIF Proposal EXAMPLE Budget Table (for illustration purposes only)

- No match requirements
- Excel Budget Template can be downloaded under LISCIF Applicant and Grantee Resources Page

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund 2027 Budget Template

Budget Category	Example Line Item	Applicant Entry / Calculation	Amount
Personnel	Project Coordinator: 10 hours/week × 40 weeks × $35/hour	[Enter position, rate, level of effort, time period, and calculation]	$[Enter amount]
Fringe Benefits	Fringe at 22% of personnel cost	[Enter fringe rate and calculation]	$[Enter amount]
Travel	Mileage for community meetings: 300 miles × current reimbursement rate	[Enter destination/purpose, rate, quantity, and calculation]	$[Enter amount]
Supplies	Workshop materials, printing, outreach supplies	[Enter itemized supplies, unit cost, quantity, and calculation]	$[Enter amount]
Equipment	Water quality monitoring equipment or durable project equipment	[Enter equipment description, purpose, unit cost, and procurement basis]	$[Enter amount]
Contractual	Consultant facilitation: 4 sessions × $750/session	[Enter contractor/consultant scope, deliverables, rate, and calculation]	$[Enter amount]
Other Direct Costs	Venue rental, participant support, translation, printing, or accessibility services	[Enter item, project purpose, quantity, unit cost, and calculation]	$[Enter amount]
Indirect Costs	Approved indirect rate or allowable de minimis rate applied to eligible base (15%)	[Enter rate, base, calculation, and documentation source]	$[Enter amount]
Total Project Budget	**Total of all requested funds**	**[Confirm totals match proposal forms and budget narrative]**	**$[Enter total]**

https://estuaries.org/liscif/grant-resources/

Application Process

1

Step 1: Submit Letter of Intent

- Due: November 20, 2026, 4:00 pm EST

2

Invitation to Submit Full Proposal

- Week of January 11, 2027

3

Step 2: Submit Full Proposal

- Due: March 5, 2027, 4:00 pm EST

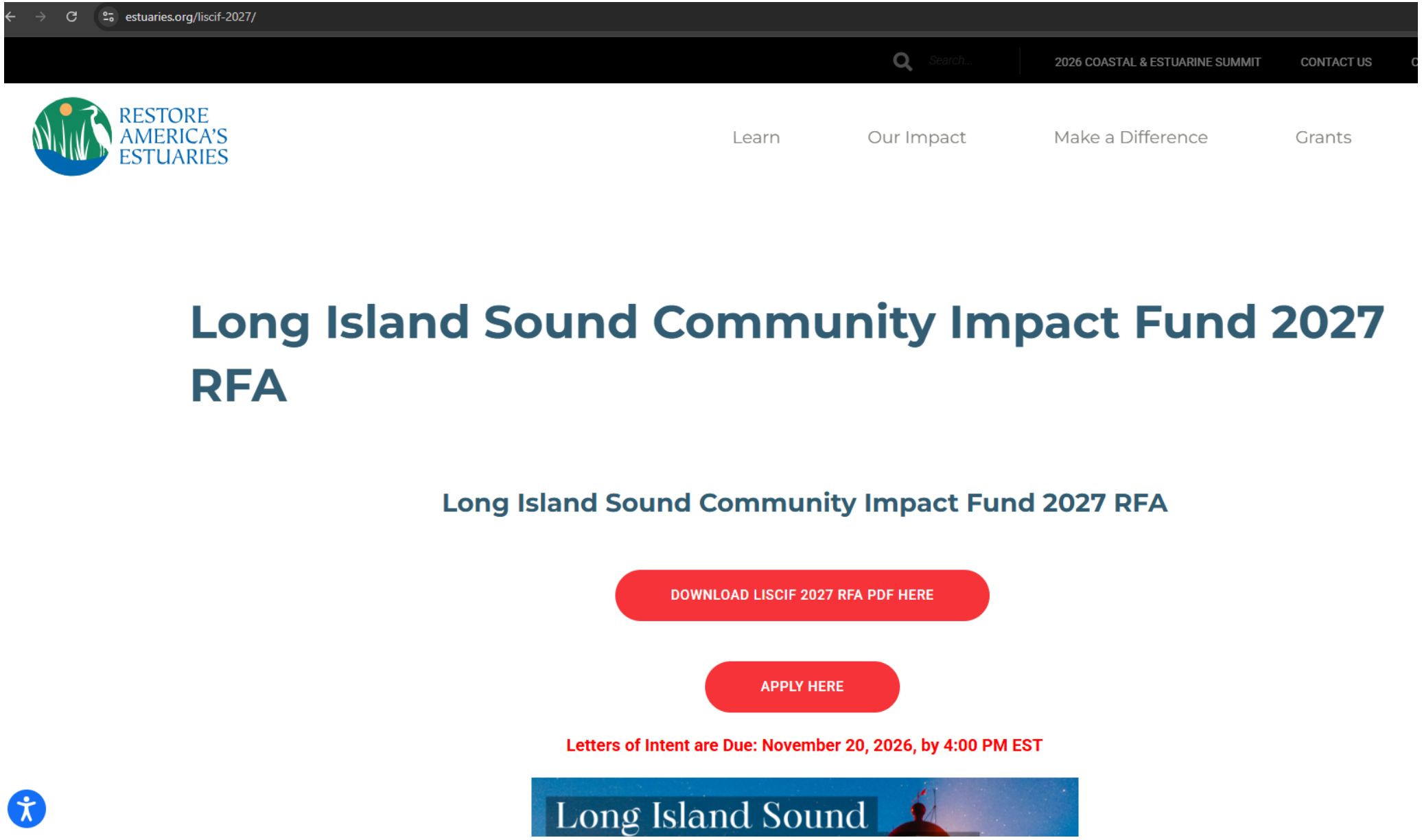
LISCIF - Timeline



Letter of Intent

Section 1: Applicant Information	Name/Role of Organization Project Leader: Contact Info
Section 2: Organizational Fiscal Information	Employer Identification Number (EIN) Federal System Award Management / Unique Entity ID **Organizational Budget**
Section 3: Project Proposal	Brief Description/Phase Attached Map/List of Partners
Section 4: Cost Information	Amount Requested Need for Working Capital Advance
Section 5: Project Description	Solution, Impact, Alignment with the CCMP Stakeholders, Capacity Building, Work Plan, Outreach, Project Team
Section 6: Required Uploads	Map
Section 7: Proposal Budget + Certification	Proposal Budget Signature of responsible individual

To Submit Your Letter of Intent, go to: https://estuaries.org/liscif-2027/



Technical Support Webinars

See recorded webinars and download slides.
Sign up for upcoming webinars!
https://estuaries.org/liscif-2027/



Creating a Federal Budget + Submitting Your Application

October 8, 2026



Project Design & Building Partnerships

October 15, 2026

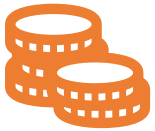
12 pm – 1 pm



Grant Writing: How to Write a Strong Proposal

October 28, 2026

1 – 2 pm



Budgeting Q&A

Contact us if you need additional support

Schedule 30-minute technical support calls: https://calendly.com/liscif/shahela

Save the Date:
Annual Learning Exchange
June 24, 2027

- Panel Discussion from current awardees
- Trainings focused on capacity building
- Addressing challenges faced by the region
- State Learning Exchanges – February 2027 (more info to come!)

- Events and Trainings
  - 2024 LISCIF Annual Learning Exchange
  - 2025 LISCIF Annual Learning Exchange







Technical Support Training Webinars

https://estuaries.org/liscif/events-and-trainings/

September 26, 2024
- QAPP 101

October 3, 2024
- QAPP Examples and Guidance

January 15, 2025
- Meaningful Community Engagement

May 13, 2025
- GIS Mapping: Presenting Results and Findings

June 30, 2025
- Annual Learning Exchange: Aquaculture Permitting, LIS CCMP, QuickDrops, Grant Writing, etc.

July 30, 2025
- Final Reporting

August 28, 2025
- Invoicing

October 2, 2025
- Project Design & Building Partnerships

October 6-7, 2025
- Managing Projects

October 9, 2025
- Creating a Federal Budget

October 21, 2025
- Writing a Strong Narrative

November 2025
- Matching Funds

November 2025
- Mini-Learning Exchange

December 2025
- Mini-Learning Exchange

January 2025
- Communication, Press Releases, & Events

Stay tuned for additional upcoming training opportunities!

Questions?

Shahela Begum, LISCIF Program Director
Email: sbegum@estuaries.org
Phone: 347-325-2627

Kellie Marty, LISCIF Program Associate
Email: kmarty@estuaries.org

Undria Polley, LISCIF Grants Administrator
Email: upolley@estuaries.org

Sign up for updates & future trainings:
https://estuaries.org/liscif-sign-up/



Source: Shahela Begum, Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability & Equity, Jamaica Bay Estuary