



Release Date: July 16, 2025

Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program Announcement

Request for Proposals

Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Projects

The Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), in coordination with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (“NEIWPCC”), is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for projects that will directly support the Healthy Ecosystem goals of *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin* by restoring aquatic organism passage in the U.S. portion of the Lake Champlain Basin. The intent of this opportunity is to remove barriers to aquatic organism passage and restore stream connectivity, adding high-quality habitat, connecting cold-water stream networks, and enhancing natural ecosystem function of river systems.

Approximately \$2.5 million is available to support awarded projects. Proposals should offer a scope that supports work in the U.S. portion of the Lake Champlain basin. An organization may submit up to two proposals per round as the primary applicant to this opportunity. LCBP anticipates granting multiple awards from this RFP.

This grant opportunity is supported by funds awarded to NEIWPCC by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on behalf of the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Proposals should offer a scope that supports work in the U.S. portion of the Lake Champlain Basin. Partial funding of total application requests may be awarded if agreeable to the applicant. All awards are subject to funding availability.

This RFP is available on the Lake Champlain Basin Program website (lcbp.org/grants).

Proposal Submission and Review Timeline

The review of proposals for this Request for Proposals will occur in two rounds. To ensure a fair and efficient review process, proposals submitted by the first review deadline will be evaluated

during the first round of review. Submissions received after this deadline but before the second and final deadline will be considered in the subsequent review round. Importantly, any proposals not successful in the first round will be automatically resubmitted for consideration during the final review round – no additional resubmission is necessary. Please note that, due to time constraints, proposals not successful in the first review may not be revised after initial submission. We encourage all applicants to submit their best proposals by the first deadline to maximize their chances of early consideration.

Proposal Submission Deadlines

- **First submission deadline – no later than 5:00 PM EST on Monday, September 8, 2025**
- **Final submission deadline – no later than 5:00 PM EST on Wednesday, October 8, 2025**

Proposals must be submitted via the online form [at this link](#). An organization may submit up to two proposals per round as the primary applicant to this opportunity.

Deliverables for all projects funded under this RFP must be fully completed prior to April 30, 2027. Projects must be closed prior to June 30, 2027, and all invoices must be submitted prior to August 30, 2027. Due to funding availability, projects awarded under this RFP will not be eligible for timeline extensions. Note the April 30, 2027, due date for project deliverables (including final report) in the schedule below.

Anticipated Project Timeline: Successful applicants will complete projects according to the following schedule (subject to change):

Information Sessions Click here to join either meeting Meeting ID: 229 348 934 378 7 Passcode: fh786SN6	Round 1 – August 6, 2025, from 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST Final Round – September 3, from 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
Award Amounts	Up to \$750,000
Proposals due to LCBP	Round 1 - September 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM EST Final round – October 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM EST

Applicants notified of funding decisions	Round 1 – October 2025 Final Round – November 2025
Detailed project workplan due	Round 1 – November 2025 Final Round – December 2025 (~1-month after award decision)
Project start	Round 1 – March 2025 Final Round – April 2025
Project deliverables and final report due on or before	April 30, 2027 (Requests for extensions will NOT be granted)

Note: Prior to initiating any activities funded by NEIWPCC as part of this project, the selected applicant must successfully complete and submit all necessary documentation and approvals to obtain a contractual agreement with NEIWPCC. **No activities shall commence until the contract is officially executed by both parties.** This step is mandatory to ensure compliance with NEIWPCC policies and to facilitate the smooth progression of the project.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

I. Inquiries and Grant Writing Resources

Please direct all inquiries to:

Corrie Miller, LCBP Aquatic Organism Restoration Specialist

Email: cmiller@lcbp.org

Grant writing resources can be found on the [LCBP Grantee Toolkit web page](#).

II. Overview of the Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program and NEIWPCC

The Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990 designated the Lake Champlain Basin as a special project area under the Agricultural Conservation Program and established the Lake Champlain Management Conference to publish a pollution prevention, control, and restoration plan for Lake Champlain. Following EPA's approval of the LCBP plan entitled, [*Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin*](#), the Daniel Patrick

Moynihan Lake Champlain Basin Program Act of 2002 established the Lake Champlain Basin Program and authorized EPA to provide support to New York, Vermont, and NEIWPCC for implementation of the Plan. The Act was reauthorized in 2022, formally renaming the LCBP to the Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program and authorizing the Program through 2027.

NEIWPCC was established by an act of the United States Congress which ratified the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Compact in 1947. NEIWPCC is a regional commission that helps the states of the Northeast preserve and advance water quality. NEIWPCC engages and convenes water quality professionals and other interested parties from New England and New York to collaborate on drinking water, wastewater, and environmental science challenges across shared regions and ecosystems. NEIWPCC serves as the primary program administrator of LCBP and administers the program's personnel, finances, quality management program, and contracts.

In accordance with the Act, LCBP and NEIWPCC work in partnership with EPA, government agencies from New York, Vermont, and Québec, private organizations, local communities, and individuals to coordinate and fund efforts that benefit the Lake Champlain Basin's water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources.

III. Grant category details and suggested activities

The intent of this opportunity is to remove barriers to aquatic organism passage and restore stream connectivity, adding high-quality habitat, connecting cold-water stream networks, and enhancing natural ecosystem function of river systems in the U.S. portion of the Lake Champlain Basin.

Targeted outcomes for projects in this category include improved aquatic organism passage; connected, cold-water stream networks; and enhanced natural ecosystem function of river systems.

Activities supported by this funding opportunity could include all phases of culvert replacement or dam removal projects, including but not limited to:

- Engagement, education, and outreach efforts (to foster future removal of barriers to aquatic organism passage and restore stream connectivity)
- Project screening/scoping
- Feasibility and/or alternatives analyses
- Engineering design and/or permitting
- Construction/site restoration
- Site monitoring
- Site maintenance

The most successful applications will advance removal of aquatic barriers for native species, opening high quality, cold-water habitat.

IV. Eligibility

- **Eligible organizations must be situated and work within the U.S. portion of the Lake Champlain basin, and include:**
 - Colleges and universities
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - For-profit companies
 - Non-federal/non-state government agencies, including municipalities
- **Ineligible entities include:**
 - Federal and state agencies.
 - Organizations based outside the United States.
 - Individuals and representatives from organizations that participated in the development or review of this RFP and its contents.
- **Partnerships and collaborations:** Applicants may submit proposals as part of a collaborative team comprising multiple organizations. However, each application must designate a single organization as the primary applicant. The primary applicant will be responsible for holding and managing the contract, and ensuring project compliance.
- **Important guidelines for current NEIWPCC/LCBP contract holders:** To ensure eligibility for additional funding opportunities, applicants currently holding NEIWPCC/LCBP contracts must be in good standing. All outstanding deliverables associated with existing contracts must have been received and accepted by NEIWPCC/LCBP.

V. Proposal evaluation and selection criteria

Proposals received in response to this RFP will undergo a confidential external peer review, and will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. **Impact (50 points).** Extent to which project outputs will:
 - a. (35 points) advance the Healthy Ecosystems goals of Opportunities for Action, by advancing removal of aquatic barriers for native species and opening high quality, cold-water habitat;
 - b. (15 points) offer other benefits like improved water quality, flood risk reduction, public safety, recreational opportunities, or other goals outlined in Opportunities for Action.
2. **Likelihood of success (20 points).** The extent to which the project team demonstrates that project outputs can and will be accomplished with high quality, on time with the proposed schedule, and within the proposed budget. If applicable, project includes a plan for long-term maintenance and storage of any equipment purchased or upkeep of infrastructure improvements.

3. **Budget (10 points).** Appropriateness and efficiency of proposed funding request, project budget, and non-federal match for the scope and outputs of the project.
4. **Outreach (10 points).** Extent to which the need for and benefits of the project will be communicated with local communities and stakeholders.
5. **Prior performance of project team (5 points).** Extent to which the project team has successfully completed LCBP projects in the past with high quality outputs delivered on time with planned schedules and within planned budgets. New applicants and those with a record of success with delivering high quality outputs on time and within budgets for LCBP projects will receive a full score (5 points) in this category.

VI. Available funds and match requirements

Funding requests up to \$750,000 will be considered. LCBP anticipates that up to \$2.5 million will be awarded. The Lake Champlain Steering Committee will decide the final distribution of available funds. Partial funding of total application requests may be awarded.

Applicants may budget costs that are associated with the project as direct expenses, including equipment and infrastructure purchases, personnel costs, travel, project supplies, meeting expenses, and subcontracts. Some allocation of project funds for indirect costs also is acceptable (see Section VIII, Direct and Indirect Costs). Receipts are required for reimbursement for supplies and professional services totaling \$1,000 or more for each task. No in-kind or cash match is required, though match will be considered favorably during budget review and may make proposals more competitive

VII. Appropriate use of funds

Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Producing for-profit products
- Costs related to regulatory compliance or direct fundraising efforts
- Land purchases
- Endowment funds
- Lobbying or legislative advocacy
- Purchasing food or beverages

Matching funds applied to an awarded grant also must meet the “Appropriate Use of Funds” criteria described above

VIII. Summary of other requirements for selected applicants

The selected applicants will be required to complete the following additional tasks:

- **Workplan:** Successful applicants must submit a detailed project workplan to LCBP. This workplan will be subject to the LCBP approval process before a contract is issued. The workplan describes the project methods, tasks, timeline, outputs, and task-based budget. If a project is selected for funding, LCBP staff will provide the grant recipient with workplan guidance. The project workplan must be certified by the Authorized Representative before a contract is issued. Payments will only be made for fully completed tasks. Invoices for partially completed tasks will not be accepted.

We strongly encourage all applicants to use LCBP grant reporting templates. Please visit the LCBP website for more information on the LCBP grant process and reporting templates [at this link](#).

- **Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)** are required for all activities involving the:
 - collection,
 - generation,
 - compilation,
 - management
 - analysis,
 - evaluation,
 - or use of environmental data.

When necessary, the successful applicant will prepare a QAPP as part of the project workplan. It is possible that some grants might not require a QAPP. Please contact LCBP staff if you are unsure about the QAPP requirement. The QAPP must be fully approved before any environmental data collection or analysis activities can begin on a project. For projects requiring a QAPP, NEIWPCC/LCBP will not pay for any data collection or analysis activities started prior to development and receipt of a fully approved QAPP. The QAPP development and approval process can be quite lengthy (up to 90 days, depending on the size of the project), so please make sure that an appropriate amount of time has been allocated to this step in the project budget and timeline. More information about the LCBP QAPP process can be found at this link: <http://www.lcbp.org/aboutus/grants-rfps/grant-toolkit/qapp/>.

- **Reporting:** The successful applicant will prepare and submit brief quarterly reports documenting progress on each objective and task in the project. A final report fully documenting the project results will be required at project completion. When approved, the final report will be edited for content and style in consultation with the successful respondent and may be published as part of the Lake Champlain Basin Program's Technical Report Series, located here: <http://www.lcbp.org/media-center/publications-library/technical-reports/>. Some content of this report may also be used for future LCBP public outreach materials.

- **Reporting Metrics:** Effective with the release of the [*2022 Opportunities for Action Lake Champlain Watershed Management Plan \(OFA\)*](#), all LCBP-funded grants must provide standardized reporting metrics within the project workplan and final report. Reporting metrics will be considered preliminary at the application and workplan stages and final at the final report stage of your grant. Reporting metrics will be based on the applicable OFA strategy(ies), grant category, and project type. Personnel time used for reporting metrics is an eligible grant expense. The most up-to-date version of this guidance can be found on the [LCBP Grantee Toolkit web page](#).
- **Direct and indirect costs:** Applicants should budget costs that are associated with the project as direct expenses, including personnel costs, travel, project supplies (mailings, phone costs, office supplies) etc. Necessary indirect costs that are not directly attributable to funded activities are subject to the following policy:

 - Applicants that do not have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) may charge a maximum indirect rate of 10 percent of direct costs (de minimis rate)
 - Applicants (including academic institutions) with a valid NICRA with their cognizant federal agency can charge indirect costs to projects based on their negotiated indirect cost rate and must enclose a current NICRA with their proposed work plan.
 - A valid NICRA is one in which the effective period has not expired. Applicants must provide a copy of their valid NICRA with their application in order for indirect cost reimbursement to be considered. If the effective period of the NICRA has expired but the grantee has documented evidence (via an indirect cost rate proposal) that they have reapplied for a new rate, the expired rate may be accepted.
- **Procurement of supplies, equipment, and services:** Award recipients are required to follow the small purchase method which is a relatively simple and informal method (procurement procedure) for purchasing supplies, equipment, and services that cost more than \$10,000 and less than \$250,000. This procurement procedure is applicable to proposals submitted in response to this RFP if the primary applicant is not a for-profit organization. The purpose is to ensure fair and open competition for purchases supported with federal funding. If the applicant plans to use LCBP funding to obtain supplies, equipment, or contractual services to complete its proposed workplan, then federal procurement requirements must be followed:

 - Procurement of supplies, equipment, and services that do not exceed \$10,000 may be made without soliciting competitive quotes if the price is considered reasonable.

- Procurement of supplies, equipment and services that are greater than \$10,000 and do not cost more than \$250,000 require that the recipient obtain multiple price quotes through a documented competitive process. Good faith efforts to obtain services from disadvantaged business enterprises should also be made, including contacting the small business administration and minority business development agency to inform them about the opportunity for businesses to submit price quotes as part of the competitive process. At least three price quotes for professional services or subcontracted work must be secured. The selected item or service does not need to be the lowest cost if it does not meet your requirements, or you can otherwise demonstrate that the higher price offers the “best value.” Justification must be provided for the outcome of the bid process. This process may take place prior to the submission of a proposal for LCBP funds, or after notice of award.
- Procurement of supplies, equipment, and services that cost more than \$250,000 are required to follow formal procurement methods described in the US Code of Federal Regulations 2 CFR 200.320 Methods of procurement to be followed, available at this link: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.320>
- “Equipment” is defined as tangible, non-expendable, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit. Equipment purchases may require additional information at the time of purchase, an LCBP staff person taking inventory on an annual basis, and disposition instructions from the funding source following the completion of the project. For further information, see 2 CFR 200.1 “Equipment”.
- **Work product accessibility:** All materials and work products, regardless of physical form or characteristics, produced as a result of this project shall be made available to LCBP, NEIWPCC, and EPA in a suitable file format. LCBP, NEIWPCC, and EPA shall have an unrestricted right to use any materials, software, maps, studies, reports, and other products or data generated using assistance funds or specified to be delivered. The contractor shall not obtain, attempt to obtain, or file for a patent, copyright, trademark or any other interest in any such materials, or work products without the expressed, written consent of LCBP and NEIWPCC, and subject to any other approvals required by state or federal law. Reports and other deliverables will credit LCBP, NEIWPCC, and EPA as funding partners for any work completed under the project contract.
- **Geospatial Data:** GIS data produced under this project must adhere to the requirements of EPA’s National Geospatial Data Policy (see https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-08/documents/national_geospatial_data_policy_0.pdf). Specifically, the selected contractor must provide documentation for all produced data, including source information for each digital data layer (i.e., scale and accuracy, map projection,

coordinate system, etc.), and specific information about the data layer itself (i.e., method used, geographic extent of data layer, file format, date of creation, staff contact, description and definition of data fields and their contents, related files, if any, and description of data quality and quality assurance methods used). The EPA Metadata Editor (EME) was developed to simplify and standardize metadata development and is a recommended tool for streamlining production of required metadata. The EME and related training materials can be downloaded from <https://edg.epa.gov/EME/>. Specific technical guidance on geospatial deliverables and acceptable formats can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/geospatial/epa-region-2-gis-deliverables-guidance>. GIS data produced under this project will be submitted to LCBP as a deliverable.

- **Insurance Requirements:** NEIWPCC requires contractors to maintain all necessary policies to cover valid and adequate workers compensation and liability insurance coverage, at their sole expense, for the duration of the awarded project. Contractors must demonstrate compliance with the specified coverage type and amounts. Proof of insurance coverage must be submitted and maintained for the duration of the project. Requests for policy renewals must be provided in a timely manner. NEIWPCC must be named as the certificate holder.
 - Workers' Compensation Insurance. The policy shall cover the obligations of the Contractor in accordance with the Workers' Compensations Law and Disability Benefits Law covering all operations under the Contract, whether performed by it, or by its subcontractor.
 - Liability and Property Damage Insurance. Unless otherwise specified, each policy shall have limits not less than: \$2,000,000 combined (Bodily Injury & Property Damage); \$3,000,000 aggregate, single limit per occurrence. These limits may be achieved through the combined use of an umbrella policy.

Note: There is no guarantee that a contract will be awarded if the submitted insurance coverage does not meet NEIWPCC requirements.

- **Subaward Requirements:** Subawardees must comply with all requirements and responsibilities of this subaward and with all U.S. EPA General Terms and Conditions under the prime agreement as outlined [at this link](#). Subawardees are required to submit a Subrecipient Risk Assessment Form with their proposal ([see LCBP Grantee Toolkit](#)). This form includes a requirement to attach an audit in some cases. If a Subawardee fails to submit or complete this form their proposal may be eliminated from consideration.
- **UEI Number:** The official entity identifier for doing business with the U.S. Government and NEIWPCC has changed from a DUNS number to a SAM.gov created Unique Entity Identifier (“UEI”) number. The DUNS number is no longer acceptable. Instead, Contractors must register for a UEI through the System for Award Management (SAM) at

<https://sam.gov/content/home>. This SAM-generated number is required for all NEIWPC Contract as part of the agreement process. Existing NEIWPC Contract that have already registered in SAM.gov will be automatically assigned a UEI which will be displayed in SAM.gov. No further action is required.

- **Build America, Buy America requirements:** Subawards or contracts awarded more than \$250,000 in funding are subject to the [Build America Buy America Act](#) (BABA) requirements. Under the BABA Act, “none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure... may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.” (Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act, P.L. 117-58, Secs 70911 – 70917).

IX. Proposal Submission

The Lake Champlain Basin Program uses [Foundant](#), a web-based grant management software platform, to accept responses to RFPs, to manage the proposal review and award decision process, and to manage awarded projects to conclusion with award recipients.

All proposals must be submitted via [Foundant](#).

To apply:

- Applicants will create a user account to log into [Foundant](#). The user must also provide information about their organization or company at that time.
 - Foundant allows for multiple user accounts per organization. Applicant accounts will automatically connect to other accounts from the same organization that share a Federal Tax ID (EIN) number.
- Applicants identify the desired grant category and begin the proposal submission process.
 - Proposals may be saved and revisited prior to final submission. Once submitted, applications are considered final and may not be edited.
 - Applicants may invite partners to assist with the application within [Foundant](#). This is done through the collaboration feature.

Please visit the [Applicant Tutorial webpage](#) for assistance in creating your individual account, or contact Kerry Crowningshield, LCBP Office Manager, at kcrowningshield@lcbp.org / call 802-372-3213.

The application for this grant opportunity can be viewed below. You may also preview the application by visiting [this link](#).

2026 Healthy Ecosystems - Aquatic Organism Passage Restoration Grants - Application Questions

Lake Champlain Basin Program

Before You Begin

Please Read and Confirm*

Grant details for this opportunity and the full RFP are available at the [LCBP RFPs webpage](#).

I certify that I have read all of the grant details for this opportunity, including the timeframe for successful projects, additional information and requirements for applicants, and proposal evaluation and selection criteria

Choices

Yes

Please Read and Confirm*

I certify that I have read and understand the NEIWPCC contractual terms and conditions ([Environmental Protection Agency](#) funding via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) that will be included as part of my award package, should my proposal be awarded for funding. I understand that NEIWPCC generally does not negotiate the agreement or contract templates, except for the workplan and task-based budget.

Choices

Yes

Please Read and Confirm*

I certify that I understand all project activities, deliverables, and the final report for this proposed project must be completed by June 30, 2027, and that this deadline cannot be extended.

Choices

Yes

Section 1: General information

Name of Organization*

Character Limit: 250

Project Title*

Provide a concise and descriptive title for your project, no more than 10 words.
Avoid using your organization's name.

Character Limit: 100

One-Sentence Abstract*

This very brief description of your project should be understandable to a general audience. Limit to 150 words.

Character Limit: 500

Point of Contact Name*

Individual who will be implementing the grant and be the main point of contact.

Character Limit: 100

Point of Contact Title*

Character Limit: 50

Point of Contact Email Address*

Email address for the point of contact.

Character Limit: 254

Point of Contact Telephone Number*

Phone number for the point of contact.

Character Limit: 20

Authorized Representative Name*

Individual who is authorized to sign the contract.

Character Limit: 100

Authorized Representative Title*

Character Limit: 50

Authorized Representative Email Address*

Character Limit: 254

Authorized Representative Phone Number*

Character Limit: 20

Federal Tax Identification Number*

Also known as FID. Example: 00-0000000

Character Limit: 20

Unique Entity ID*

UEI Number, available on SAM.gov

Character Limit: 20

Organization Mission Statement*

Character Limit: 1500

Total Request Amount*

Please be sure to double check that your budget table matches your **total request amount**, and that amount **doesn't exceed the maximum** before submitting your application.

Character Limit: 20

Non-Federal Match Amount

Total proposed non-federal match amount. No in-kind or non-federal match is required, however non-federal match will be considered favorably during budget review and may make proposals more competitive.

Character Limit: 20

Overall Project Cost*

Total LCBP request + non-federal match amount + funds you intend to leverage from other sources, (i.e., additional federal funds, matching funds obligated to another source). This helps us understand what portion of the full project cost you are requesting from LCBP.

Character Limit: 20

Overall Project Cost Estimate Description*

Please explain how you arrived at the Overall Project Cost estimate you provided. For example, do you have an Opinion of Probable Cost from a preliminary or final design, a bid response, is it an estimate based on past experience, a quote, etc.? Does the Overall Project Cost estimate you provided include Indirect expenses?

Character Limit: 1000

Other Resources

Describe, if applicable, any other funding sources and resources the project will leverage, including other federal funds or matching funds obligated to other sources.

How much of the Overall Project Cost of the project has been secured?

Character Limit: 1000

Phase(s) of Barrier Removal*

What phase(s) of a barrier removal project are included in your proposed project?

Choices

Assessment
Preliminary Design (~30)
Final Design (~90-100%)
Implementation
Monitoring
Other

Section 2: Project Location(s)

Address of Organization*

Character Limit: 250

Site Locations

Please enter the GPS coordinates for the site location(s).

R1:C1	Site Name (as referenced in this proposal)	Latitude (decimal degrees)	Longitude (decimal degrees)
Primary Site Location			
Site 2			
Site 3			
Site 4			
Site 5			

Specify the town(s) of the Lake Champlain Basin where the project will occur*

Character Limit: 750

Specify the county(-ies) of the Lake Champlain Basin where the project will occur*

Choices

Essex County, NY
 Clinton County, NY
 Franklin County, NY
 Warren County, NY
 Washington County, NY
 Addison County, VT
 Bennington County, VT
 Caledonia County, VT
 Chittenden County, VT
 Franklin County, VT
 Grand Isle County, VT

Lamoille County, VT
Orange County, VT
Orleans County, VT
Rutland County, VT
Washington County, VT

Specify the HUC8 sub-watershed(s) of the Lake Champlain Basin where the project will occur*

Please refer to [this link](#) for a map of Hydrologic Unit Code 8 (HUC8) sub-watersheds in the Lake Champlain Basin.

Choices

Ausable - 04150404
Lake Champlain - 04150408
Lamoille - 04150405
Otter/Lewis - 04150402
Poultney-Mettawee - 04150401
Saranac - 04150406
Winooski - 04150403
Missisquoi - 04150403

Specify the HUC12 sub-watershed(s) of the Lake Champlain basin where the project will occur*

Refer to [this link](#) for a map of Hydrologic Unit Code 12 sub-watersheds in the Lake Champlain Basin. **Please list the 12-digit HUC12 sub-watershed number(s).**

If your project is implemented in multiple sub-watersheds, list the **top 3** sub-watershed numbers where your project will occur.

Character Limit: 250

Site Description and Land Uses

Provide detailed site description(s) if applicable (e.g. stream and/or road names, site/road ownership). Include a brief description of the land uses that will be addressed in the project (e.g. urban, suburban, agriculture, forested lands, aquatic habitat).

Character Limit: 1000

Section 3: Project Description

Project Summary*

Please describe your project in **3-5 sentences**.

Character Limit: 3000

Demonstrated Need*

Please describe your team's strategy for identifying this project as a priority, explain the demonstrated need for the project and/or if it is identified in management or prioritization plans.

Character Limit: 1000

Applicability and Impact - AOP*

Describe how the project is applicable to, and will advance, the goals of Opportunities for Action and the AOP program goals mentioned in Section III of the RFP.

Describe the extent to which the project works to "remove barriers to aquatic organism passage and restore stream connectivity, adding high-quality habitat, connecting cold-water stream networks, and enhancing natural ecosystem function of river systems in the U.S. portion of the Lake Champlain Basin."

- What is/are the main native species which benefit from this project?
- How does this project enhance stream connectivity? For each barrier to aquatic organism passage, please share the upstream mileage to the next barrier and degree of each barrier (partial, full, etc) and be sure to say how you determined these numbers (using an online tool, walking the stream, consultation with agency staff, etc),
- What is the quality of aquatic habitat and land use in the subwatershed or area most relevant to the project location(s)?

Character Limit: 2500

Applicability and Impact - Other Benefits*

Describe how the project is applicable to, and will advance, the goals of *Opportunities for Action*.

Please describe any benefits of the project outlined in Opportunities for Action not already discussed, like improved water quality, flood risk reduction, public safety, or recreational opportunities.

Character Limit: 2500

Organizational Capacity and Likelihood of Success*

Include an explanation of your organization/team's capacity and experience to successfully complete the project, including past performance of the project team with similar projects and/or LCBP grants. If relying on a team of partners please share more information in the "Project Partnerships" question below.

Character Limit: 1000

Project Partnerships*

If applicable, provide a summary of potential project partners and the nature of the partnership, including how each would contribute to the project.

Up to three signed letters of support confirming any major partner's involvement with your project can be submitted as PDF documents in **Proposal Section 6**.

Character Limit: 1000

Long Term Plan*

Describe the plan for project success beyond the life of this grant (e.g., a long-term maintenance plan for an implementation project, identified or possible funding sources to implement planning projects, aquatic invasive species spread prevention plan, etc.). If state guidelines for operations and maintenance will be followed, please include that information here.

Character Limit: 1000

Outreach*

Describe how the project will be shared with community members and stakeholders, or how it will engage them in the work.

Character Limit: 1000

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)*

Projects that involve the collection, generation, compilation, management, analysis, evaluation, and/or use of environmental data to inform management decisions will require a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Please review the information on this webpage (<https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/grant-toolkit/qapp/>) and reach out to an LCBP staff member if you are unsure if your project will require a QAPP.

Choices

I have reviewed the QAPP guidance and do not believe a QAPP will be required for this project.

I have reviewed the QAPP guidance and believe a QAPP will be required for this project.

Project Output*

List all anticipated outcomes for the project. Outcomes are the results or effects of all activities, e.g. upstream miles of habitat reconnected for AOP.

Character Limit: 1000

Anticipated Outcomes*

List all anticipated outcomes for the project. Outcomes are the results or effects of all activities, e.g. upstream miles of habitat reconnected for AOP.

Character Limit: 1000

Project Task Outline and Table*

Please download and complete the [LCBP Project task table template](#) and upload the completed file below. Please use this to outline your project objectives, tasks to fulfill these objectives, deliverables/outcomes produced by each task, and timeline for task completion. An example is provided in the linked document.

Note that at least one Project Deliverable for each task is required.

Required deliverables include:

1. Quarterly reports due on January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 during the period of the grant.
2. Digital copies of (or electronic links to) any media coverage the project.
3. Three digital photos (highest resolution and size possible) of grant-related work, e.g. people participating in activities relating to the grant, photos during/after construction, etc.
4. LCBP Project Metrics Report
5. Approved Final Report

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Project Task Descriptions*

Please describe each project task in detail, including measurable outputs and associate each task with the correct task number from your Project Task Outline and Timetable above. Provide justification for project locations and methodologies whenever possible.

Character Limit: 7000

Relevant Project Information

Please use this space as needed to enter any relevant project information that has not been included in other responses.

Character Limit: 2000

Section 4: Budget and Justification

Budget and Non-Federal Match Tables*

Please download the [LCBP Grants Budget Calculator Spreadsheet](#), use it to develop your budget and non-federal match tables, and upload them below. In your budget, include complete details for all costs by major budget categories (e.g., personnel, travel, supplies, professional services),

linking costs to the specific tasks in the project task table. Include any non-federal matching funds that will be utilized for this project in the non-federal match table in the same spreadsheet.

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Budget Justification: Personnel

For all tasks, please describe in detail how the estimate of personnel cost was determined. E.g., if personnel estimates are based on hourly rates, please include the rates and number of hours estimated for each task with justification details.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget Justification: Fringe

Fringe refers to benefits and is calculated as an appropriate percentage of personnel costs for each Task. For all tasks, please describe in detail how the estimate of fringe cost was determined, if applicable.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget Justification: Travel

For all tasks, please indicate anticipated travel. The 2024 standard mileage rate is 67 cents/mile.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget Justification: Supplies

For all tasks, please describe in detail how the estimate of supplies cost was determined. E.g., include the estimated cost and number of each item.

NEIWPCC requires detailed receipts for any task in which more than \$1,000 in Supplies were incurred (a total of \$1,000 each) in connection with completion of each task for any project categorized as a subaward.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget justification: Professional Services

Professional services line is to be used if you are hiring a subcontractor to complete workplan tasks. For all tasks, if applicable, please describe in detail how the estimate of professional services cost was determined.

NEIWPCC requires detailed receipts for any task in which more than \$1,000 in Professional Services were incurred (a total of \$1,000 each) in connection with completion of each task for any project categorized as a subaward.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget Justification: Indirect

For all tasks, please describe in detail how the estimate of indirect cost was determined. The maximum indirect rate is 10% of direct costs unless you have a Negotiated Indirect Rate Cost

Agreement (NICRA). While the allowed federal de minimis rate increased from 10% to 15% on October 1, 2024, NEIWPCC's funding agreement was executed before this change and only allows up to 10%. **DO NOT** round up on any indirect costs. Please see [details here](#).

Character Limit: 1000

Budget Justification: Non-Federal Match

If your proposal includes non-federal matching funds, describe the source(s) of these funds below. While matching funds are not required, they make projects more competitive. Federal funds may not be used as match. If matching funds are from a Vermont or New York State agency, provide a letter certifying those funds are eligible for match against LCBP funding. Please double check that any State matching funds are not already dedicated to EPA Section 120 LCBP program match.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget Justification: Additional Information

Use this space to add any additional budget justification information not covered above, if needed.

Character Limit: 1000

Section 5: Opportunities for Action Selection

OFA Strategies (select all that apply)*

Check the *Opportunities for Action* strategies your proposed project will address. Descriptions for each strategy can be found [at this link](#).

Please note that for each strategy you choose, you must provide a deliverable, outcome, output, or other metric when submitting your Final Report.

More detailed information can be found on pages 34-65 of [Opportunities for Action](#).

Choices

- I.A.1
- I.A.2
- I.A.3
- I.A.4
- I.B.1
- I.C.1
- I.C.2
- I.C.3
- I.C.4
- I.C.5
- I.D.1

I.D.2
II.A.1
II.A.2
II.B.1
II.B.2
II.C.1
II.D.1
II.D.2
II.E.1
II.E.2
II.E.3
II.E.4
III.A.1
III.A.2
III.A.3
III.A.4
III.A.5
III.B.1
III.B.2
III.B.3
III.B.4
III.B.5
III.C.1
III.C.2
III.D.1
IV.A.1
IV.A.2
IV.A.3
IV.A.4
IV.B.1
IV.C.1
IV.C.2
IV.C.3

Section 6: Letters of Support and Supporting Documentation

Project Area Map(s)

Attach map(s) of the project area below. Including map(s) is highly encouraged but not required. Relevant information on the map may include site location within stream network or subwatershed, proximity to major waterways, location and degree of other AOP barriers, relative location to other projects, etc.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Letter of Support #1

You may attach partner and stakeholder letters of support for your proposal. Landowner letters of support are especially encouraged if your project would take place on privately owned land. Letters may be uploaded separately or together in one document.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Letter of Support #2

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Letter of Support #3

File Size Limit: 3 MB

CV/Resume(s)

You may attach project team CVs/Resumes if desired (not required).

Please combine multiple documents into one file upload and ensure all documents are clearly identifiable.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Photo of Site #1

For each site, please upload at least one high resolution photograph. Be sure to add site name, any helpful descriptors and attribution to your photographs.

Character Limit: 500 / File Size Limit: 4 MB

Photo of Site #2

For each site, please upload at least one high resolution photograph. Be sure to add site name, any helpful descriptors and attribution to your photographs.

Character Limit: 500 / File Size Limit: 4 MB

Photo of Site #3

For each site, please upload at least one high resolution photograph. Be sure to add site name, any helpful descriptors and attribution to your photographs.

Character Limit: 500 / File Size Limit: 4 MB

Photo of Site #4

For each site, please upload at least one high resolution photograph. Be sure to add site name, any helpful descriptors and attribution to your photographs.

Character Limit: 500 / File Size Limit: 4 MB

Photo of Site #5

For each site, please upload at least one high resolution photograph. Be sure to add site name, any helpful descriptors and attribution to your photographs.

Character Limit: 500 / File Size Limit: 4 MB

Supporting Documentation

Attach additional supporting documentation for this grant application, such as team experience, planning documents, maps, photographs, QAPP development, etc.

You may combine multiple documents into one file upload. If you are combining documents into one file, please ensure all documents are clearly identifiable. List each document in the file by title/type below.

Character Limit: 500 / File Size Limit: 5 MB

Before you submit your application

Please ensure that your application is complete before submitting. Once you hit submit, you will not be able to edit your application.