

# 2026 Education and Outreach **Small** and **Large** Grants Request for Proposals

Informational Webinar

November 19th, 2026

3:00 pm



# Purpose

Support efforts to enhance the knowledge and understanding by members of the public, including children and adults, of the water quality and ecosystem health issues identified in *Opportunities for Action* and/or foster informed decision-making, individual action, and behavior change that will benefit Lake Champlain.

# Funding Sources

This grant opportunity is supported by funds anticipated to be awarded to NEIWPC by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and in partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

# RFP Details

## Small Education and Outreach Projects

- Up to \$15,000
- \$180,000 available funding
- One proposal per eligible organization
- **Proposals are due December 15th, 2025 at 5:00PM**



## Large Education and Outreach Projects

- \$15,000 - \$50,000
- \$400,000 (approximate) available funding
- Two proposals per eligible organization
- **Proposals are due January 5th, 2026 at 5:00PM**



# Submission Requirements

- ! Proposals must be submitted using Foundant
- ! Email submissions not accepted
- ! Applicants currently holding LCBP/NEIWPCC contracts must be in good standing.

# Proposal Review

- Confidential peer-review
- Review committee meeting
- Evaluation Criteria

# Evaluation Criteria (E&O Small)

**Impact (40 points)** Extent to which the project will inform members of the public about Lake Champlain issues, specifically topics that advance objectives and strategies identified in Opportunities for Action (2022 edition), encourage stewardship actions by citizens, and/or reaches new audiences.

**Likelihood of Success (20 points).** Extent to which objectives and tasks are well defined, support the project concept, and are feasible within the proposed schedule. Outputs should demonstrate task completion.

**Organizational capacity of project team (20 points).** Knowledge and experience with education and outreach initiatives related to the Lake Champlain basin, and the capacity of the applicant to successfully complete the project.

**Budget (10 points).** Appropriateness and clarity of the task-based budget and budget justification, relative to project scope and outputs. Non-federal in-kind or cash match is not required, though match will be considered favorably during budget review and may make proposals more competitive.

**Evaluating Success (10 points).** Extent to which the project includes evaluation and reporting on the success of the work included in this grant in terms of increasing knowledge and/or effecting personal action or behavior change.

# Small E&O – Past Projects



Ausable Freshwater Center:

## **Guided Watershed Tours: Educational Outdoor Trips to Inspire Stewardship**

- \$14,946 award.
- Increase outdoor education and natural interpretation programming for visitors and residents and inspire responsible stewardship.



Lake Champlain Committee:

## **"Don't P on Your Lawn" Campaign**

- \$15,000 award.
- Education and outreach about the legal requirements of Phosphorus application.



# Evaluation Criteria (E&O Large)

**Impact (40 points)** Extent to which the project will inform members of the public about Lake Champlain issues, specifically topics that advance objectives and strategies identified in Opportunities for Action (2022 edition), encourage stewardship actions by citizens, and/or reaches new audiences.

**Likelihood of Success (20 points)** Extent to which objectives and tasks are well defined, support the project concept, and are feasible within the proposed schedule. Outputs should demonstrate task completion.

**Organizational capacity of project team (15 points)** Knowledge and experience with education and outreach initiatives related to the Lake Champlain basin, and the capacity of the applicant to successfully complete the project.

**Budget (10 points)** Appropriateness and clarity of the task-based budget and budget justification, relative to project scope and outputs. Non-federal in-kind or cash match is not required, though match will be considered favorably during budget review and may make proposals more competitive.

**Evaluating Success (10 points)** Extent to which the project includes evaluation and reporting on the success of the work included in this grant in terms of increasing knowledge and/or effecting personal action or behavior change.

**Community Need (5 points)** Extent to which the project addresses a community-identified need for education and outreach around the topic, a particular audience, of form of outreach or communication.

# Large E&O – Past Projects



## Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Giant Lake Champlain Basin Map

- \$42,431 award.
- A travelling, interactive spatial and geographical learning tool for teachers and students.



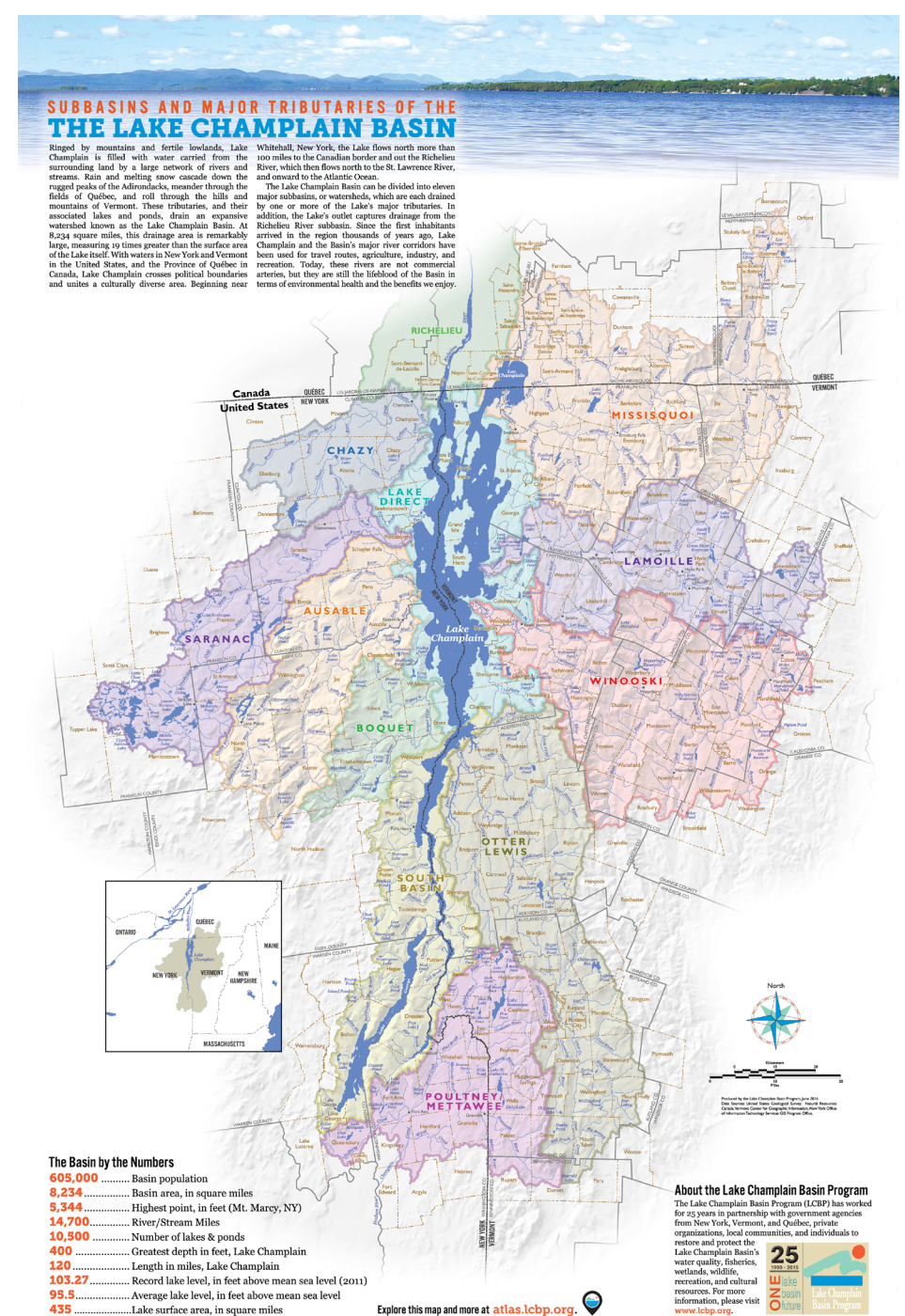
## St. Albans Museum Lake Lessons with Missisquoi Partners

- \$24,270 award.
- A hands-on, place-based learning opportunity for students in the Missisquoi sub-basin from a variety of partners.



# Eligibility

- + Applicants must conduct their work within the Lake Champlain Basin.
- + Eligible applicants include:
  - Colleges and universities
  - Nonprofit organizations
  - NY Soil and Water and VT Natural Resource Conservation Districts
  - Non-federal/non-state government agencies, including municipalities
- + Organizations can apply for both categories



# Reporting and Metrics

## Reporting

- Quarterly Reports
- Final Report
- Invoicing only by completed tasks
- LCBP templates
- Tangible deliverables

## Metrics

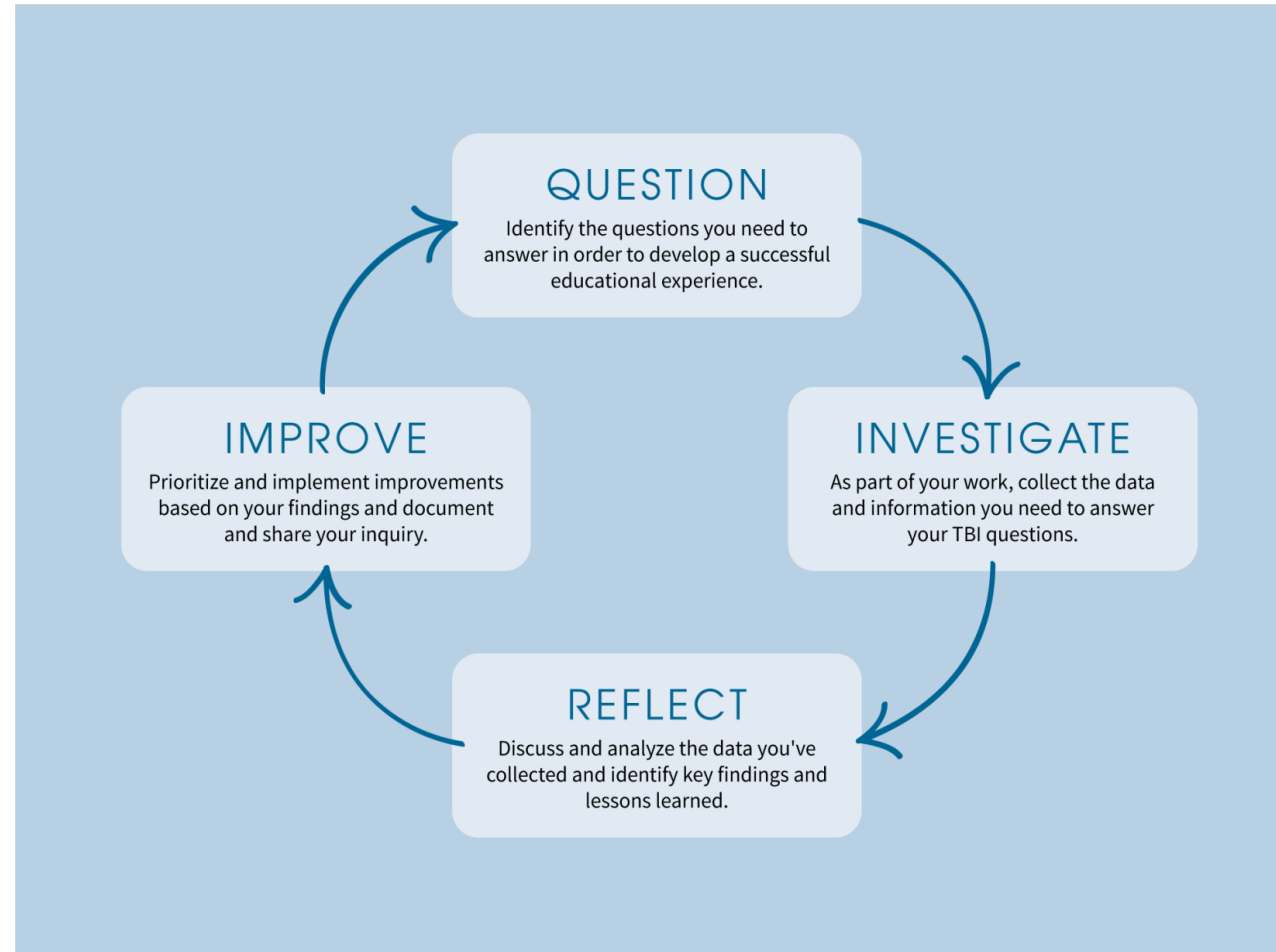
- Reporting metrics track deliverables and assess project reach/success
- Based on strategies identified in OFA
- Developed/ refined during the contracting process

# Program Evaluation

## Why Evaluate?

- To help plan for the future
- To collect information that will help us improve/ change our practice
- To identify strengths and weaknesses
- To see what we've achieved/ measure progress
- To help us be more effective
- To share our work/ experience
- Right size your evaluation plan to the project budget and scope

# Program Evaluation



Graphic from Guide to Team-Based Inquiry, MOS/ NISE Network

# Other Contract Requirements

- Workplan
- Budget: task-based
- Procurement for  $\geq \$10,000$
- Receipts  $\geq \$1,000$  for supplies or professional services

**[lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/grant-toolkit/](http://lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/grant-toolkit/)**

# QAPP

**Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)** are required for all activities involving the:

- collection,
- generation,
- compilation,
- management,
- analysis,
- evaluation,
- or use of environmental data.



# Tips

- Make clear connections to ***Opportunities for Action***
- Partnerships are viewed favorably
- Letters of Support, from identified partners and/or others
- Non-federal match viewed favorably
- Budget math

# Small Education and Outreach

## Key Dates

<b>Proposals due:</b>	December 15th, 2025 at 5pm
<b>Award decisions:</b>	February 2026
<b>Detailed project workplan due:</b>	March 2026
<b>Project start :</b>	June 2026
<b>Final report and deliverables due:</b>	July 2028

# Large Education and Outreach

## Key Dates

<b>Proposals due:</b>	January 5th, 2026 at 5pm
<b>Award decisions:</b>	May 2026
<b>Detailed project workplan due:</b>	August 2026
<b>Project start :</b>	After January 1st, 2027
<b>Final report and deliverables due:</b>	July 2029





Questions?