

Public Waterfront Access Improvement Projects Request for Proposals

Informational Webinar

August 18th, 2026



Program Overview

The intent of this funding opportunity is to measurably improve public access to waterfront recreation opportunities in the Lake Champlain watershed to enhance the enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of the Lake Champlain Basin's natural and cultural resources.

RFP Overview

Important Details

- Approximately **\$420,000** in funding is available to support awarded projects.
- Grants of up to **\$100,000** will be awarded.
- One proposal may be submitted per eligible organization or entity.

Eligible Applicants must be situated and work within the U.S. portion of the Lake Champlain basin

- Colleges and universities
- Nonprofit organizations
- For profit companies
- NY Soil and Water and VT Natural Resource Conservation Districts
- Non-federal/non-state government agencies, including municipalities

Project Examples

- Improved access to recreational watercraft and related supplies
 - Ex. Free or low-cost watercraft rental programs
- Water safety education and instruction
 - Ex. Free or low-cost programs that promote safe waterfront recreation
- Infrastructure improvements
 - Ex. Creation of new or improvements to existing waterfront trails, parks, boat launches
- Transportation solutions
- Natural resource engagement education and outreach programs
- Reduce financial barriers to accessing recreational programs and areas

Key Dates

Proposals due to LCBP	September 29, 2026 at 5pm (via Foundant)
Applicants notified of funding decisions	December 2026
Detailed project workplan due	January 2027 (~1 month after award decision)
Anticipated project start	May 2027
Project completion/final report due	June 30, 2030

Evaluation Criteria

- Impact (40 points)
 - Will the project advance the Thriving Communities goals of OFA?
- Likelihood of success (20 points)
 - Does the proposal demonstrate that the project will be accomplished as described?
- Budget (10 points)
 - Is the proposed budget request appropriate and efficient?
- Outreach (10 points)
 - Will the benefits of the project be communicated with local communities?
- Prior performance of project team (5 points)

Other Contract Requirements

- Workplan
- Budget
- Procurement requirements for supplies/professional services costs that exceed \$15,000
- Receipts required for supplies/professional services tasks that exceed or equal \$1,000
- Must have an active UEI and be registered in SAM.gov
- Hold insurance throughout the grant period with coverage of not less than \$2M combined and \$3M aggregate

Tips

- Partnerships are viewed favorably
- Letters of support, from identified partners and/or others
- Non-federal match is viewed favorably
- Tasks and deliverables clearly identified
- Accurate budget table
- Proposal makes clear connections to OFA and how the funding support will enable your team to advance improved public access to Lake Champlain waterbodies

Questions?

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