

Research for Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Request for Pre-proposals

Informational Webinar

October 21, 2026

Matthew Vaughan, PhD



Program overview



Credit: Joe Bartlett, Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, (2025).
Geomorphic Assessments for Québec and Vermont Segments of the Rock
River. Technical Report # 110, Grand Isle, VT. Lake Champlain Basin
Program.

- LCBP seeks research projects that address the complex challenges facing Lake Champlain and its watershed
- Funding is targeted at projects inform management decisions for Lake Champlain or its watershed and that address:
 - any research-oriented strategies and tasks in *Opportunities for Action*
 - one or more specific priorities listed under a research track in the RFPP

Proposal process

- A pre-proposal is a brief (~3 page) application to introduce a research project
- A subset of applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal for funding consideration
- Requests must be between \$25,000 to \$400,000
- One or more pre-proposal(s) may be submitted per eligible organization or entity.
- Please review the list of previously-funded research projects to avoid duplication



Credit: Braun, D., Stone Environmental Inc., (2023). Assessment of Tile Drainage Systems in Addison County and the Jewett Brook Watershed (Technical Report # 104). Grand Isle, VT. Lake Champlain Basin Program.



• Research tracks

- Track 1: General *Opportunities for Action*
- Track 2: Nutrients and contaminants
- Track 3: Native species and natural communities
- Track 4: Invasive species
- Track 5: Aquatic organism passage
- Track 6: Riparian area health and function
- Track 7: Cyanobacteria
- Track 8: Extreme events
- Track 9: Water quality improvement projects
- How to compete within a track

Eligible organizations include:

- 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

Partnerships and collaborations

- Applicants may submit proposals as part of a collaborative team comprising multiple organizations or partners. 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.
- Procurement requirements apply to any subcontracts >\$15,000 to for-profit businesses, regardless of partnership



Credit: Brendan Wiltse, Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute, (2023). Quantifying the De-icing Salt Pollution Load to Mirror Lake and the Chubb River. Technical Report # 107B, Grand Isle, VT. Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Evaluation criteria

- Impact (20 points)
- Technical feasibility (10 points)
- Budget (10 points)
- Likelihood of success (10 points)
- Prior performance of project team (10 points)



Grant requirements

- Workplan, reporting, metrics
- Quality assurance project plan (QAPP)
- Present workplan and final report to Technical Advisory Committee
- Budget: task-based
 - Procurement for $\geq \$15,000$
 - For non-university non-profits, receipts $\geq \$1,000$ for supplies or professional services for reimbursement
- U.S.-based applicants 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 & \$3M aggregate

lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/grant-toolkit/



Credit: Franklin County Natural Resource Conservation District

Timeframe

Pre-proposals due to LCBP	November 13, 2026 at 5pm via Foundant
Pre-proposal decisions	December 2026
Full proposals due	February 2027 (Due date TBD)
Award decisions	June 2027
Detailed project workplan due	August 2027
Project start*	January 2028
Project completion/final report	Up to three years after start date

*Work may not begin on the funded tasks of the project until a signed, fully executed agreement is in place with NEIWPCC or the GLFC

Questions?



Credit: Maddie SanAngelo, Nisha Nadkarni, Andres Torizzo, Watershed Consulting Associates, (2025). Tile Drain Base-flow Phosphorus Removal Using St. George Black. Technical Report # 109, Grand Isle, VT. Lake Champlain Basin Program.