

2027 Healthy Ecosystems – Habitat and Native Species Conservation Projects

Request for Proposals

Informational Webinar

October 1, 2026

LCBP Technical Team



Program Overview

Funding is targeted at projects that will preserve, restore, or improve native species habitat in the Lake Champlain Basin.

Two Grant Categories

- **Habitat and Native Species (HE-HNS) Small grant category:** projects up to \$50,000
- **Habitat and Native Species (HE-HNS) Large grant category:** projects between to \$50,001 - \$175,000

One proposal per funding opportunity may be submitted per eligible organization or entity. Proposals are evaluated through a confidential peer review process



Credit: Intervale Center

The intent of this funding opportunity is to improve wetland, riparian, or aquatic habitat, to restore and maintain a healthy and diverse fish and aquatic life community, to implement flood resilient practices, or to better understand native species and their habitats.



Credit: Franklin County Natural Resource Conservation District

Project Examples:

- Native riparian plantings
- Native species surveys
- Identification and conservation of native species habitat
- Floodplain or wetland restoration work
- Public-facing informational signage
- Education and outreach about the project with the community
- A project maintenance plan

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must work within the Lake Champlain Basin.

Eligible applicants 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



Credit: Town of Waitsfield

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.

Other Contract Requirements

- Workplan
- Procurement for $\geq \$15,000$
- Budget: task-based reimbursement
- Receipts $\geq \$1,000$ for supplies or professional services
- 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/

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



Credit: Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation



Credit: The Orianne Society

Evaluation and selection criteria

Proposals received in response to this RFP will undergo a confidential external peer review, and will be awarded by the Lake Champlain Steering Committee according to the following criteria:

1. **Impact (40 points).** Extent to which project outputs will advance the Healthy Ecosystems goals of 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.
3. **Long-term plan (20 points).** Strength of a long-term plan for project success beyond the life of the grant (e.g., a long-term maintenance plan for an implementation project, identified funding sources to implement planned projects, aquatic invasive species spread prevention plan).
4. **Prior performance of project team (20 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 (20 points) in this category.
5. **Budget (15 points).** Appropriateness, efficiency, and accuracy of proposed funding request, project budget, and non-federal match for the scope and outputs of the project.
6. **Outreach (5 points).** Extent to which the need for and benefits of the project will be communicated with local communities and stakeholders.

Tips for a Successful Application

- Make clear connections to ***Opportunities for Action and how support will enable you to advance OFA goals***
- Non-federal match viewed favorably
- Letters of Support, from identified partners, landowners (if working on private property) and/or others
- Tasks and deliverables clearly identified
- Accurate budget table



Credit: Vermont River Conservancy

Key Dates

Proposals due to LCBP	October 23, 2026 at 5pm via Foundant
Award decisions	December 2026
Detailed project workplan due	January 2027
Project start	By May 2027
Project completion/final report	March 31, 2029

Questions?



Credit: OBVBM



Credit: Town of Waitsfield



Credit: Intervale Center



Credit: Vermont River Conservancy



Credit: University of Vermont



Credit: Franklin County NRCD



Credit: Ausable Freshwater Center