Request for Proposals

Use of Technology to Enhance Regenerative Farming Best Management Practices in the New York Portion of the Lake Champlain Basin

Information Session

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Intent / targeted outcomes

Support the use of technology that effectuates NY Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Tier 4 implementation of stacked regenerative management practices that improve phosphorus stewardship in the New York portion of the Lake Champlain Basin.



Image: A regular corn planter being retrofitted as a no-till planter

Funding source

This grant opportunity is supported by funds awarded to NEIWPCC on behalf of the Lake Champlain Basin Program by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.**

Approximately **$125,000** in funding is available to support awarded projects.

Applicant eligibility

Eligible organizations must be situated and work within the N.Y. portion of the Lake Champlain basin, and include:

- NY Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- colleges and universities
- nonprofit organizations
- for-profit companies

Ineligible entities include:

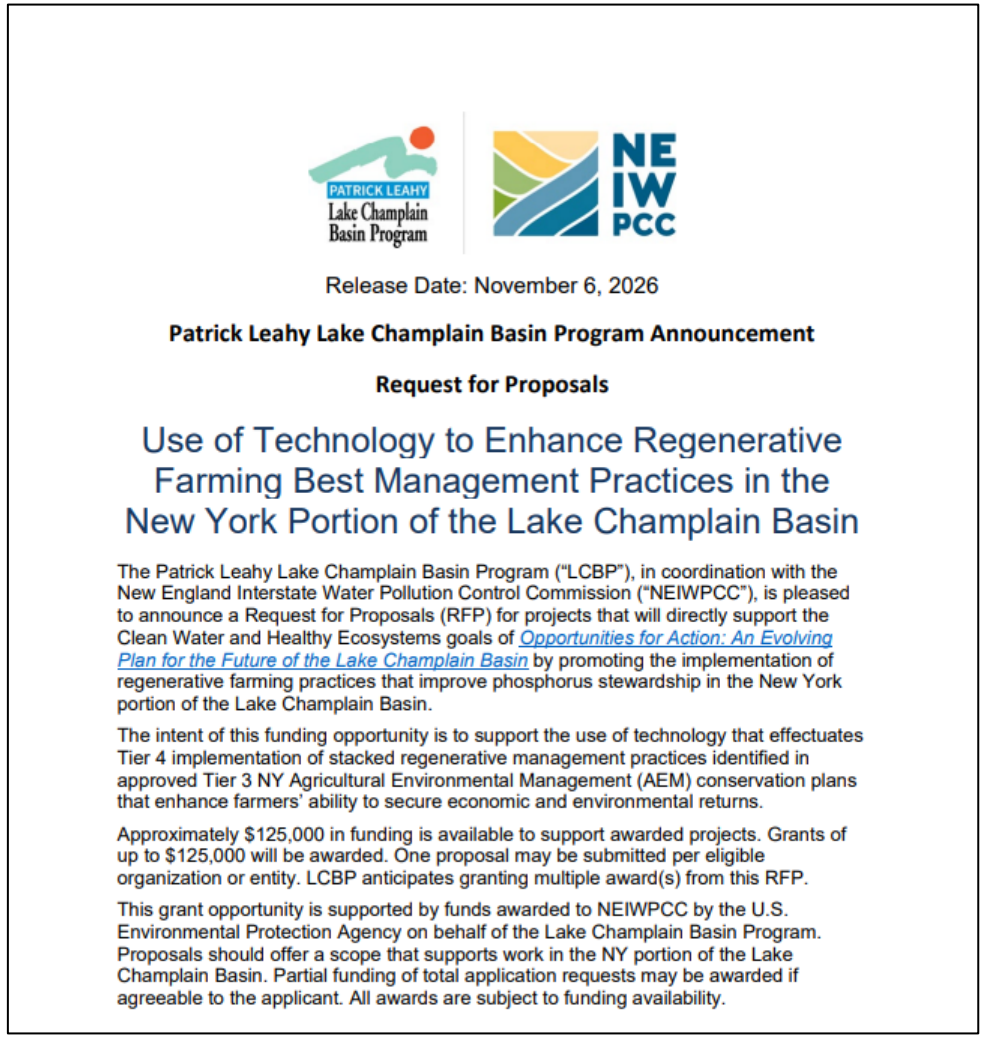
- Federal and state agencies
- Organizations based outside the United States
- Individuals and representatives from organizations that participated in the development or review of the RFP and its contents

Partnerships and collaborations

- Applicants may submit proposals as part of a collaborative team comprising multiple organizations or partners that include farmers, district planners, specialists, engineers, contractors and permitters. 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.

RFP details

- Max request = $125,000
- Partial funding of total application requests may be awarded
- 1 application per eligible organization
- No match required, but may be favored during review process
- Only projects in NY portion of LCB
- Final report due no later than 12/31/29



PATRICK LEAHY Lake Champlain Basin Program

NE IW PCC

Release Date: November 6, 2026

Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program Announcement

Request for Proposals

Use of Technology to Enhance Regenerative Farming Best Management Practices in the New York Portion of the Lake Champlain Basin

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 Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems goals of *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin* by promoting the implementation of regenerative farming practices that improve phosphorus stewardship in the New York portion of the Lake Champlain Basin.

The intent of this funding opportunity is to support the use of technology that effectuates Tier 4 implementation of stacked regenerative management practices identified in approved Tier 3 NY Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) conservation plans that enhance farmers' ability to secure economic and environmental returns.

Approximately $125,000 in funding is available to support awarded projects. Grants of up to $125,000 will be awarded. One proposal may be submitted per eligible organization or entity. LCBP anticipates granting multiple award(s) from this RFP.

This grant opportunity is supported by funds awarded to NEIWPCC by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Proposals should offer a scope that supports work in the NY 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.

Suggested activities

Successful projects submitted by eligible applicants will include:

- Efforts to assist eligible farmers to implement highest level solutions that enhance farm stewardship of phosphorus reduction progress by implementing approved Tier 3 stacked regenerative management practices within the New York portion of the Lake Champlain Basin
- Description of the stacked best management practices from the NRCS list of 15 accepted practices planned to be effectuated throughout the NY portion of LCB.
- Description of the precision agriculture tools or items to be purchased
- Metrics for how ongoing use of regenerative farming practices utilized for improvements in capacity, yield, nutrient use, runoff reduction etc. will be tracked
- A plan for implementation throughout the NY portion of LCB, including the number of farms supported and outreach efforts about the funding opportunity
- The solicitation of voluntary participants of current (privately-owned) eligible farms.
- If applicable, technical assistance by a qualified licensed professional for the implementation of the planned technology.

Evaluation and selection criteria

Proposals received will go through a confidential external peer review, judged according to the following criteria:

- **Knowledge (20 points).** Demonstrated farmer support for the program within the District; Demonstrated familiarity with agricultural issues and producers in the New York portion of the Lake Champlain Basin; Demonstrated familiarity of accepted practice standards and the New York AEM program.
- **Impact (20 points).** Number of eligible farms supported; Proximity of identified project areas to U.S. EPA listed 303d impaired waterways in New York (https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/31290.html); Estimated phosphorus contribution from Agriculture in the subwatershed of the identified areas in the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's Lake Champlain TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan
- **Feasibility (20 points).** Technical merit and applicability of the proposal towards effectuating planned regenerative management practices throughout the District .
- **Budget (20 points).** Appropriateness of budget and budget justification, describing how the funds awarded and how non-federal match, if provided, will be used to produce project outputs and deliverables.
- **Outreach (20 points).** Demonstrated ability to conduct outreach and create documents and products that are accessible to and can be used by local partners working to address nutrient loading and cycling issues within the Lake Champlain Basin.

Grant requirements

- Workplan
- Budget: task-based
- Procurement for ≥$15,000
- Receipts ≥$1,000 for supplies or professional services
- 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 (bodily injury & property damage) & $3M aggregate

https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/grant-toolkit/

Requirements - reporting and metrics

Reporting

- Quarterly Reports due on:
  - January 10, April 10, July 10, October 10
- Final Report

*LCBP provides templates

Metrics

- Metrics track deliverables and assess project reach/success
  - Anticipated metrics developed during contracting
  - Final metrics submitted at closeout

GENERAL PROJECT METRICS:	
Metric	Guidance
Category of Organization	Choose one of the following: state, tribal, municipal, academic, other NGOs, not listed
Non-match eligible funds utilized (e.g. if leveraging other US Federal funds) ($)	List amount of other eligble funds, rounding to nearest USD ($)
Hours of staff time funded by the grant	List hours to nearest hour
New full-time employee positions that were created as a result of this funding	List number of positions
Volunteers engaged in project	List number of volunteers
Volunteer hours contributed to project	List number of hours
Value of NY volunteer hours	NY 2025 Hourly rate: $38.48
Value of VT volunteer hours	VT 2025 Hourly rate: $34.39
Value of QC volunteer hours	QC 2025 Hourly rate: $36.44
Units of equipment purchased	List number of units (Single unit value is equal to or greater than $10,000)
CLEAN WATER:	
IMPLEMENTATION	
Phosphorus reduction	
Phosphorus reduced	List data required to calculate amount of phosphorus reduced (kg) using VTDEC CWIP / NYSDEC project-type definitions and reporting requirements
Agriculture	
Land treated or improved with soil best management practices	List area in acres to nearest tenth
Barnyard/production area management practices installed	List number of projects
INFORMED AND INVOLVED PUBLIC:	
Technical Assistance	
Resources created	List number of resources (guidance manuals, reports, factsheets, etc)
Farmer-to-farmer education or technical programs supported	List number of programs
Farms supported	List number of farms

Tips

- Make clear connections to ***Opportunities for Action***
- Highlight partnerships relevant to the project
- Include Letters of Support, from identified partners and/or others
- Non-federal match viewed favorably
- Have clearly identified tasks and deliverables
- Include an accurate budget table, and be clear about source of estimates

Key dates

Proposals due to LCBP	January 11, 2027, at 5:00 PM EST All proposals must be submitted via Foundant
Applicants notified of funding decisions	February 2027
Detailed project workplan due	March 2027 (~1-month after award decision)
Project start	June 2027
Project deliverables and final report due on or before	December 31, 2029



Questions?

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