



June 12, 2019

**NOTICE FOR 2020 WATER QUALITY PLANNING 604(b) FUNDING
Request for Letters of Intent**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is requesting Letters of Intent (LOI) from Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) and the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) for 2020 Section 604(b) Water Quality Planning projects. The LOI will be used to select projects warranting further development and consideration for funding. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal to compete for funding.

The top priority for these funds is developing watershed-based plans in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria requiring nine required elements (a) through (i) for watershed-based plans (see http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/wbp_section319_guidance.htm and http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/watershed_based_plans.htm for guidance and examples respectively). Consider utilizing subcontractors for services such as modeling pollutant loads, running watershed and in-lake models to generate water quality goals, creating best management practice (BMP) prioritization and cost effectiveness tables, etc. if in-house capacity does not exist.

Preference will be given to projects that address water quality concerns in high priority impaired or high quality waters as identified in the New Hampshire Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan Appendix A (see <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/nps-plan.htm>). Pages A-56 through A-64 present Protection Potential maps for each Regional Planning Commission. Pages A-13 through Pages A-36 present the Recovery Potential Ranking for River Watersheds and Lake Watersheds respectively.

Section 604(b) of the EPA Clean Water Act requires funds to be allocated to regional planning entities for conducting water quality planning, including:

- 1) Identifying the most cost effective and locally acceptable facility and nonpoint source (NPS) measures to meet and maintain water quality standards;
- 2) Developing an implementation plan to obtain State and local financial and regulatory commitments to implement water quality plans;
- 3) Determining the nature, extent, and causes of water quality problems in the State; and
- 4) Determining those publicly owned treatment works which should be constructed, taking into account the relative degree of effluent reduction attained and the consideration of alternatives to such construction.

Other eligible projects that address the above water quality concerns may include but are not limited to: developing corridor management plans for designated rivers (<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/index.htm>), conducting monitoring

to address specific water quality concerns; planning stormwater retrofits to address water quality impairments; green infrastructure projects that manage wet weather to maintain or restore natural hydrology; and/or working with municipalities committed to adopting specific model ordinances and/or meeting regulations (MS4 Permits) to address priority water quality planning concerns. **Projects that are coordinated with other watershed partners are highly encouraged.**

To apply, your LOI must be no more than three pages and include the following:

- Project title, description, and general location (communities and watershed);
- Name and contact information of person who will be responsible for coordinating the project;
- Water quality problem being addressed;
- Water quality status as reported in the 305(b)/303(d) assessment report; (see Watershed Report Cards at <http://nhdes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=aa5a11f8b8c341058fc031701a2fb3c9>)
- Project partners and their involvement with the project;
- Relevance to items 1), 2), 3), or 4) listed above on Page 1;
- Specific deliverables and associated environmental outcomes; and
- Estimated cost of the project. Estimates should be as accurate as possible.

Approximately \$64,000 is available for calendar year 2020. NHDES anticipates funding one or two projects with the available funding. Applicants are encouraged to leverage 604(b) grant funds with local funding, in-kind services, and other forms of match to generate effective project budgets. Although not required, projects that demonstrate matching funds and/or in-kind resources will receive a higher ranking. Administrative costs, including indirect costs, must not exceed 10% of the total project budget.

The LOI must be received by NHDES by 4:00 pm on **September 20, 2019**. The LOI is non-binding, but is required for initial consideration. The LOI should be emailed to katherine.zink@des.nh.gov.

Upon review of the LOI, selected applicants will be notified in **October 2019** and invited to submit formal applications by **December 6, 2019**. Final selection of applications to receive funding will be made in December, 2019. Projects are expected to receive Governor and Executive Council approval and are anticipated to begin by **May 2020**.

Submittal of a LOI does not commit NHDES to award a Grant Agreement or pay any costs incurred during the preparation of a LOI. All awards are subject to Governor and Executive Council approval. NHDES also reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals and to negotiate the scope of work and requested grant amounts.

Contact: Katherine Zink, Watershed Specialist, Watershed Assistance Section
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302
(603) 271-8475
katherine.zink@des.nh.gov