



Updated: July 21, 2021

NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL RESILIENCE GRANTS

Questions & Responses Regarding the Grant Opportunity

Supporting Capacity-Building, Planning and Regulatory, and Site-specific Projects

Discussion with Julia Peterson about a project concept on 6/3/2021:

Question: Thinking about a project related to climate migration, using scenario planning as a tool for planning for a future with uncertainty. Would like to try the scenario planning technique for helping a community envision what it wants to be under the dynamics of climate migration and land use change. Would it make sense to do the project with one community that is likely to be an in-migration or outmigration community? Or does it make sense to work with a couple communities?

Response: The reviewers will look for the project need to be clear and compelling, so the most important piece will be to partner with a community that is interested in conducting the scenario planning exercise related to climate migration. Reviewers are likely to review the proposal more favorably if the scenario planning exercise is tied to a Master Plan Vision Chapter update or similar planning process that is formally adopted by municipal decision-makers. You could consider working with a community that already has some density and economic opportunities and is likely to see more of that with climate migration. You could alternatively work with a more rural community that has less dense development and fewer job opportunities. Evaluating how the program works and ensuring it contributes meaningfully to community planning will be important.

Discussion with Kyle Pimental about a project concept on 6/11/2021

Question: Dover may be interested in applying for a project to complete future floodplain modeling for their freshwater floodplain in order to develop a complete floodplain overlay district that includes existing future coastal flood modeling. Would this project qualify as a Coastal Resilience grant project?

Response: Yes. That project concept would qualify for the Coastal Resilience Grant opportunity.

Discussion with Sophie Saltonstall about a project concept on 6/16/2021

Questions: The Saltonstall Farm and the Robinwood Center are interested in a couple project ideas and determining whether they would be eligible and competitive. Would a project to support youth farmers working at Saltonstall Farm through a national organization be eligible? Would a project to support Robinwood Center strategic planning and local coalition building at the nexus of climate change and racial justice be eligible? Please also clarify the match requirements. Please clarify what the funds may be used for.

Response: The more you can connect projects locally to Stratham as a coastal community and to the expected impacts of climate change and associated resilience-building, the more competitive the project concepts will be. The Robinwood Center strategic planning and coalition building concept would be eligible, particularly if it is focused on building a coalition in coastal NH. In general, the concept of sustainable, local farming is a resilience-building activity that helps our communities better prepare for climate changes. We cannot fund for profit entities, so funding Saltonstall Farm directly to support youth farmers may not be eligible. The details of the youth farming curriculum would be important to help determine eligibility and competitiveness of the project concept. If the farmers are local to the NH coast, that may make it more competitive. If the farmers are learning about climate change impacts to local farming and Stratham and surrounding communities, that would make the project concept more competitive. You can use in-kind volunteer time, value of services, or cash (say from donations or other non-federal funding sources) as the required 20% match. Say you volunteer your time with the Robinwood Center, you would place a dollar value on that time, keep track, and report it to the NHDES Coastal Program over the course of the grant to meet your match commitment. You can use the funds for many purposes—you could pay a part time or full time staff person to carry out the project, for example. You can purchase supplies to support the project. You cannot purchase equipment over \$5000 or engage in construction using grant funds.

Discussion with Barbara Mclean Ward of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire on 6/21/2021

Question: Interested in understanding whether a project idea is eligible and competitive. We have several sites in coastal NH communities that we would like to add to the Black Heritage Trail network. Could the grant support planning to select and work toward adding those sites to the Trail? Some existing sites are close to water, and may be vulnerable to flooding. Can you share any mapping or tools to help us better explore that?

Response: I think work to add coastal sites to the Black Heritage Trail network would be eligible under the capacity building project type. You might consider pairing that planning work with a broader climate change vulnerability assessment of the existing and potential future sites in order to understand what might be needed to protect/preserve the sites in the long term. That said, we recognize that BHTNH has its own priorities that you need to focus on, and you may not want to stray too far from those priorities. We work with some partner organizations who

may be able to help BHTNH take on the vulnerability assessment component at no or low grant cost so that your staff can focus on priorities you have related to adding sites to the trail. I can connect you to them if you are interested.

Discussion with Town of Newmarket Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee on 7/6/2021

Question: The Riverfront Committee is preparing a CRG application to advance resilience and improvement planning at Schanda Park in downtown Newmarket. The site has been a priority for the town for several years. It floods and is vulnerable to sea-level rise. It is also an important public access and environmental education venue in Newmarket. The Town is also interested in exploring options for a pedestrian bridge across the Lamprey River to connect Schanda Park and the riverwalk to the Heron Point conversation property (30 acres, currently only accessible by car and hard to find). We are proposing to use funds to hire an engineering consultant to develop preliminary plans/concept for improving the park (e.g., extend riverwalk, improve boat ramp, repair rip rap, create living shoreline/soften existing hard stabilization to extent possible) and to prepare preliminary designs for a pedestrian bridge. All designs would incorporate coastal hazards/projections. Is the project eligible? Will it be competitive? Can you provide guidance about how to frame the project need; environmental context; stakeholder engagement; and advancement of diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion? How do we report match?

Response: Yes, the project is eligible and seems like it would fit under project type 3. The more that you can assess and incorporate into design expected climate impacts at the site and the more you can discuss the commitment to nature-based and low impact designs, the more competitive the application will be. For project need, you could provide references to sources and previous work that shows how this project is a priority for the town of Newmarket (e.g., the UNH engineering project, the establishment of the Riverfront Committee). Also explain WHY the project is needed. For environmental context, you could provide specifics about the environmental importance of the site and how it is used for environmental education in addition to the climate vulnerability of the park. For stakeholder engagement, you could provide specific details about how community member stakeholders will be engaged and provide input to the project. For advancement of DEI, you could speak specifically to the people who will be better able to access/use Schanda Park and Heron Point as a result of the project (e.g., people without access to automobiles, people with mobility issues, etc.). For cash match, you'll report its expenditure using a simple form we provide and the town will keep records for 7 years. For any in kind match, you will keep sign in sheets of attendance (say the Riverfront Committee members present at meetings) and monetize their time (there is guidance on how to estimate value of time if you need it).

Discussion with Peter Britz, City of Portsmouth on 7/14/2021

Question: Portsmouth is thinking of submitting an application to select areas where stormwater drainage, groundwater rise, and sea-level rise create vulnerabilities for existing infrastructure,

create a detailed flood risk model for those areas (or one area), and assess vulnerability to infrastructure in order to identify projects to improve resilience. Is this an eligible and competitive idea? Portsmouth would need to solicit consultants in a RFP/RFQ; is that approach acceptable? Do we need to know exactly which sites we are going to focus on in advance?

Response: Yes, that project concept is eligible and would be competitive. So long as Portsmouth is following its own procurement rules, a RFP/RFQ or other bid process is an acceptable approach. You do not have to have the consultant pre-identified. If you lay out a process for selecting/prioritizing sites in the application, you don't need to have the sites pre-selected. In the environmental context section, you could explain what previous studies/reports you will draw from to help you select/prioritize sites. In the section on diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion, consider explaining how you might factor in social vulnerability when it comes to selecting sites for evaluation—for example, you might prioritize sites that include important public/social services such as public housing, a library, key public transportation routes, etc.

Discussion with Tracy Degnan, Rockingham County Conservation District on 7/15/2021

Question: RCCD is working with the Town of New Castle on the Pit Lane culvert replacement project to improve habitat and flood vulnerability. Can you offer some input about how to select the appropriate sea-level rise scenarios? Whether certain modeling approaches are appropriate for the project? How to factor in social vulnerability? Considering integrating some outreach work with the local school.

Response: The project is eligible and would likely be competitive. You can emphasize the previous work that has been done to help prioritize the culvert project (tidal crossings, Seacoast Transportation Corridor Vulnerability Assessment). You don't have to have all the answers figured out about sea-level rise scenarios to use and modeling approaches prior to submitting an application—but indicate on the application that you will engage the appropriate stakeholders (can include NHCP) to make those decisions. Consider reaching out to Kevin Lucey for a little more input on the technical questions. As for social vulnerability, engaging the school is a good idea. If there are any public access improvements of the project for New Castle Common or otherwise, you could emphasize those.

Follow up response from Kevin Lucey: Consider a RFP process to solicit consultants to help you understand and evaluate the breadth of options/approaches for culvert hydraulic and hydrologic modeling and alternatives analysis.

Discussion with Jake San Antonio, VHB (Town of Exeter) on 7/19/2021 (question asked 7/16/21)

Question: Working with the Town of Exeter on a feasibility assessment for removal or repair of the Pickpocket Dam in Exeter. High hazard dam with letter of deficiency. It's a big project, with an approximately \$400k budget. The town is piecing together funding from different sources. Looking for advice about how to apply for a piece of the project. Should we submit an

application describing the whole project? What pieces of a dam feasibility assessment is the CRG more likely to fund?

Response: You could approach the application multiple ways. You could apply for a distinct piece valued at \$40k plus match. Or you could describe the entire project and explain why the CRG funding is needed to support it. The CRG is most suited to fund aspects of the feasibility assessment that have to do with incorporating climate impacts (precipitation, for example), habitat improvements, and hazard mitigation (reducing long-term flood risk, reducing risk of property damage/loss of life due to dam failure, etc.). Because the dam isn't tidal, try to make the connection between the project and the benefits to the coastal community and watershed.