



# Culvert Flood Risk Assistance Grant Program Summary of Application Questions & Responses



*Updated: June 10, 2022*

## Eligible Applicants

- 1. Question:** Is this funding opportunity only available to communities in New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed?  
**Response:** No, the Culvert Flood Risk Assistance Grant Program is a statewide funding opportunity. Eligible applicants include New Hampshire municipalities and non-governmental organizations.
- 2. Question:** Are private business owners eligible to receive funding through this grant program?  
**Response:** Private business owners are not eligible applicants, but municipalities and/or non-governmental organizations may apply on behalf of a private entity. The replacement of culverts owned by or located on property owned by private individuals/entities will only be considered if the project provides a tangible and public safety benefit by reducing flood hazards.
- 3. Question:** Can eligible applicants submit an application even if they already submitted a letter of interest to a different grant program?  
**Response:** Yes, this grant program will accept applications from applicants that are simultaneously pursuing funding from other sources for the same project.
- 4. Question:** Could funding awarded through this grant program be used in combination with funding from other grant programs for the same project?  
**Response:** Yes, funding from this grant program could be combined with funding from other sources.

## Project Eligibility

- 5. Question:** What is the definition of a "culvert" with regard to this grant program?  
**Response:** This grant program defines a culvert as a structure surrounded by soil or other fill materials that allows water to pass under a road or similar obstruction. A culvert may take the form of a pipe, arch, or box made from metal, plastic, reinforced concrete, stone, or other materials and can have a bottom or consist of a natural bottom.
- 6. Question:** Will this grant program fund beaver deceivers and other lasting solutions to beaver issues that can cause flooding?  
**Response:** No, eligible projects under the Culvert Flood Risk Assistance Grant Program must be a culvert replacement projects.
- 7. Question:** Could grant funding be used to only replace a culvert, or would the project have to result in an upgrade to hydraulic capacity and/or condition?  
**Response:** The purpose of the funding opportunity is to encourage the replacement of high-risk culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and flood resiliency criteria. The replacement of outdated and/or degraded culverts that present a flood risk based on their poor condition would be considered for funding, even if the applicant is proposing to replace the existing culvert with a new, similar structure of the same size. However, the new structure must demonstrate hydraulic improvements that meet the 100-year storm event.

**8. Question:** If project costs exceed the maximum individual award of \$400,000, will the award be contingent on additional funding secured beyond what this grant would provide?

**Response:** Yes, culvert replacements selected to receive grant funding must be completed within three years of the project start date (i.e., Governor and Executive Council approval of the Grant Agreement), so if project costs exceed \$400,000, the applicant would need to provide supporting evidence that the additional funding exists or is expected in order to complete the replacement before the three-year deadline. Any additional funding allocated to the project should be identified in section 7.2 of the application form.

#### Eligible Uses of Funds

**9. Question:** Can grant funds be used for any pre-award engineering costs?

**Response:** Selected grant recipients must enter into a Grant Agreement with NHDES to receive funds, and that Grant Agreement must be approved by the Governor and Executive Council prior to commencement of work. Therefore, pre-award engineering costs would not be eligible expenses.