

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Project March 11, 2020

Introduction

The [Narragansett Bay Estuary Program](#) (“NBEP”), through its host the [New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission](#) (“NEIWPCC”), is issuing this request for support (“RFS”) for the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Project with funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA”) [Southeast New England Program](#) (“SNEP”). The purpose of this RFS is to obtain specific capacity support services from local organizations for the development of a comprehensive needs assessment to accelerate implementation of specific actions needed to improve the health and resilience of the Blackstone River Watershed in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Funding awards will range from \$3,000-\$5,000 depending on the number of awards, a total of \$25,000 is available. **Applications are due March 25, 2020.**

Background

Building on the NBEP’s April 2019 workshop titled, *The Blackstone River: Past, Present, and Future*, NBEP along with local partners will develop a needs assessment for the ecologically and economically vital Blackstone River Watershed. Over the next year, with SNEP funding, NBEP will bring together diverse stakeholders via a workgroup from across the Blackstone through a series of up to five (5) convenings of the workgroup and/or the public. This will enable local interests to identify needs, prioritize them, and create the pre-conditions for high impact projects actions that address their needs. The desired deliverables are a consensus written needs assessment and at least two (2) new project support documents that will facilitate actions that improve water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in the watershed. We expect the project to be complete by March 31, 2021.

Eligibility

Those eligible to respond to this RFS include 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and municipalities active in watershed restoration and protection in the Blackstone River Watershed. Further all applicant organizations must commit to attend all workgroup meetings, complete at least two support tasks, and submit required reports that summarizes completed tasks.

Support Requested

The specific support tasks requested are the following:

1. Complete material preparation in advance for workgroup and/or public meetings.
2. Identify, contact, and invite new participants to meetings.
3. Host and lead a public meeting.
4. Take meeting notes
5. Review and edit written materials.

Application Process

Applicants must complete and submit the application form provided on Page 2 of this document and NEIWPCC’s Subward Risk Assessment Form (available here: http://neiwpcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NEIWPCC-Subrecipient-Risk-Assessment-Form_01.24.18.pdf) to Mike Gerel, Program Director, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program at mike.gerel@nbep.org. NBEP and NEIWPCC will review applications and those selected for funding will enter into a formal contract with NEIWPCC to receive funds.

Schedule and Deadlines

RFS released: March 11, 2020

Applications due: March 25, 2020 by 5:00PM EST

Awards announced: April 8, 2020

Written Material Ownership

All written materials produced as a result of this RFS are funded, in whole or in part, under an agreement with NEIWPCC shall be made available to NBEP, NEIWPCC, and the EPA and they shall have unrestricted right to use these materials.

Questions

Please contact Mike Gerel, Program Director, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, (401) 633-0552, mike.gerel@nbep.org.

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APPLICATION FORM

I. Applicant Information

Applicant Organization: _____

Applicant Address: _____

Applicant Contact Person: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Contact E-mail: _____

II. Support Tasks to be Completed

Select at least two (2) support tasks you propose to complete for the project:

- Complete advance preparation for workgroup and/or public meetings.
- Identify, contact, and invite new participants to meetings.
- Host and lead a public meeting.
- Take meeting notes.
- Review and edit written materials.

III. Narrative

Briefly describe your organization's interest in the project, expertise, and justification for seeking support (<200 words).

IV. Signature

By signing the below the applicant organization agrees to attend all meetings, submit required reports, and complete the tasks checked above by deadlines mutually agreed to by the applicant and NBEP.

Applicant Contact Name Printed: _____

Applicant Contact Name Signature: _____

Date: _____

**THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM MUST BE EMAILED TO
MIKE.GEREL@NBEP.ORG BY 5:00PM EST ON MARCH 25, 2020**