

2016 Southeast New England Program (SNEP) for Coastal Watershed Restoration Grants Program

REQUEST FOR INITIAL PROPOSALS INFORMATION SESSION

DECEMBER 17, 2015
JANUARY 6, 2016

Webinar Logistics

- Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation
- Please mute your phones for the duration of the presentation
- Slides will be emailed to all participants and posted on SNEP website
- A Q&A will also be developed and posted on the SNEP website

Webinar Agenda

- SNEP Background & Priorities
- General RFIP Information
 - Process and Timeline
 - Funding, Match, & Project Period
- Eligibility
 - Applicants
 - Project activities
 - Expenses
- Initial Proposal Submission
 - Format
 - Required Materials
 - Evaluation Criteria
- Questions

SNEP Background & Priorities

■ Funding Authority (Section I.D.)

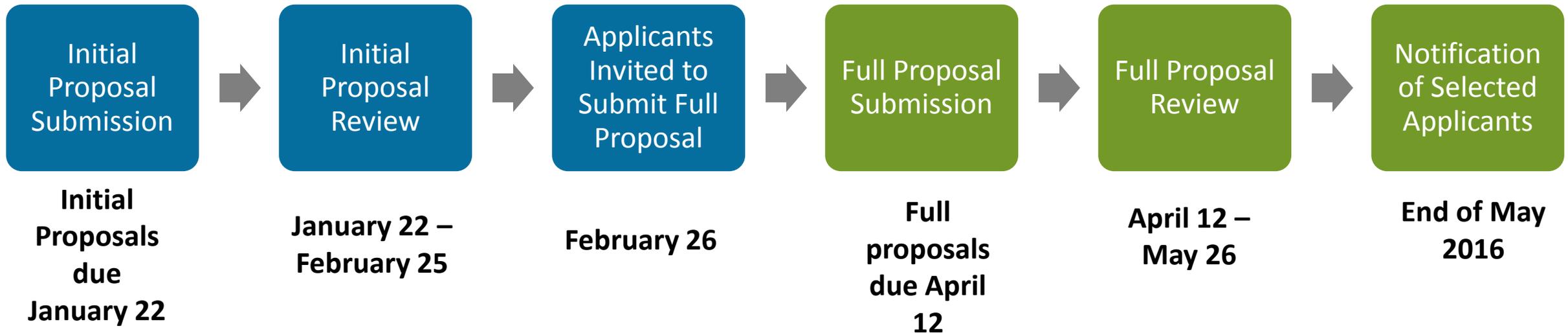
“The Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated under the heading “Environmental Programs and Management” for fiscal year 2016 to provide grants to implement the Southeastern New England Watershed Restoration Program.”

■ SNEP Priorities (Section I.B.)

- Innovative Restoration and Protection Approaches
- Strategic Collaboration and Regional Impact
- Integrating Habitat and Water Quality
- Focus on Connectivity and Ecosystem Services and Functions

General Information: Process and Timeline (Section V.C.)

- 2-Step Competitive Process



- Awards made end of July 2016
- Expected project start date: September 1, 2016

General Information: Funding, Match & Project Period (Section II)

Funding Availability

- Up to \$3.5 million for FY16

Size of Awards

- \$250,000 - \$1,000,000 federal share
- One award per applicant
- Match (Section III.B.)

- Minimum of 10% of federal award

Project Period

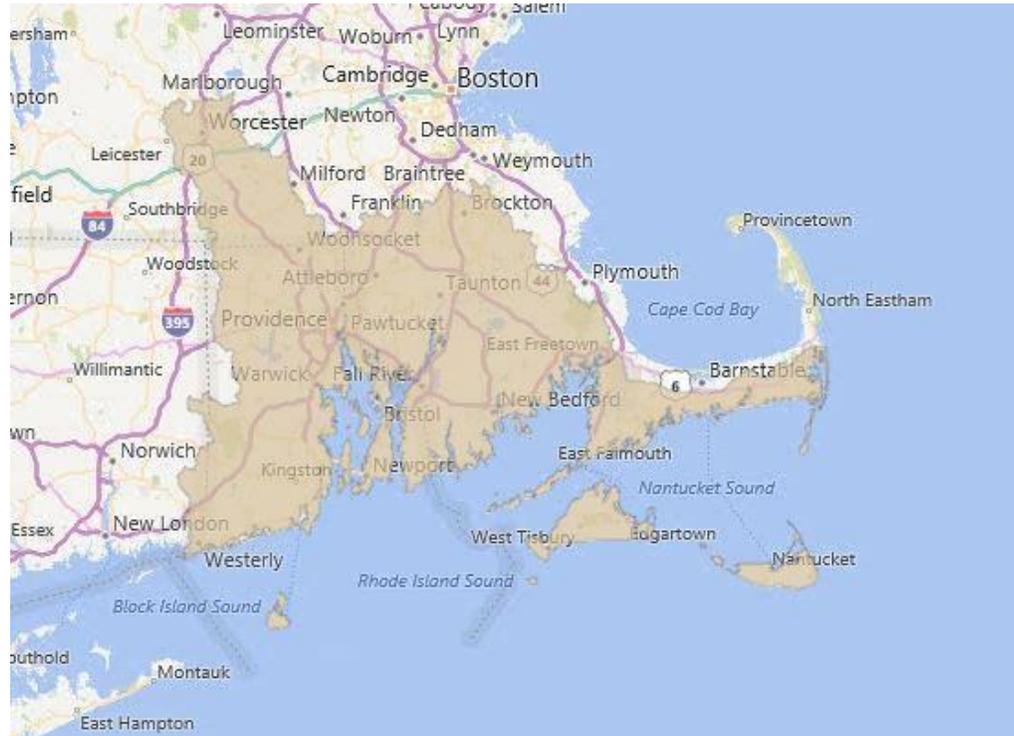
- Up to 4 years
- Starts September 1, 2016

Eligibility: Threshold Criteria (Section III.C.)

- All proposals must comply with submission instructions in Section IV (by Jan 22 and via Grants.gov)
- Eligible applicants (Section III.A.)
- Eligible Projects/Activities (Section III.D. and Appendix A)
- Ten percent match (Section III.B.)
- Link to EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Section I.C.)
- Alignment with program priorities (Section I.B.)

Eligibility: Geographic Scope

- Projects must be carried out within the SNEP geographic area



<http://www.epa.gov/snecwrp/background-information-southeast-new-england-coastal-watershed-restoration-program>

Eligibility: Applicants (Section III.A.)

Types of eligible applicants:

- State, local, territorial and Tribal governments
- Institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit organizations
- Intertribal consortia
- Interstate agencies

Ineligible Applicants:

- Private businesses, federal agencies, and individuals
 - *(These applicants can partner with an eligible applicant)*

Eligibility: Project Activities (Section III.D.)

Types of Eligible Activities:

- Projects that are within the SNEP geographic area
- Projects that address one or more program priorities
- Projects that test, demonstrate, assess or implement more effective and/or innovative methods or watershed restoration approaches
- Projects that describe the environmental significance of the project (including value added by partners and an innovative approach)
- Projects that describe the potential of the proposed project as a transferable model within and outside of SNEP area
- See Appendix A for list of eligible project examples

Eligibility: Project Activities (Section III.D.)

Ineligible Activities/Projects:

- Those that do not yield outputs and outcomes within the SNEP area
- Those that are located outside the SNEP area
- Land acquisition
- Public outreach and education as a primary focus of the project
- Activities that directly benefit the federal government (e.g. trainings to federal employees, restoration of federal lands, etc.)

Eligibility: Project Expenses (Section VI.B.)

Eligible Expenses:

- Indirect costs with a previously established indirect cost rate

Ineligible Expenses:

- Medical treatment
- Any portion of an event where alcohol is served, purchased or available even if grant funds were not used to purchase the alcohol
- Lobbying or influencing legislation before Congress

Initial Proposal Submission (Section IV.A.)

Format & Content (Section IV.A.)

- Required Materials:
 - Cover page
 - SF 424 and SF 424 A
 - Initial Proposal Narrative (4-page limit, single-spaced)
 - OPTIONAL: Up to 5 letters of commitment from project partners

Submission Instructions (Section IV.F.)

- MUST be submitted via Grants.gov
- **Initial Proposals are due by 11:59pm EST on January 22, 2016**

Initial Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Section V.A.)

- Organization Description (30 points)
- Project Description (30 points)
- Environmental Results and Measuring Progress (20 points)
- Budget Summary (20 points)

Organization Description (30 points)

- Applicant's ability to timely and successfully address one or more SNEP priorities (described in section I.B.)
- Applicant's organizational experience and capacity to support one or more SNEP priorities (skills, experience, resources in the SNEP priority areas described in Section I.B.)

Project Description (30 points)

- How the proposed project will address SNEP priorities (plans to reach target audience(s), engage partners, and achieve anticipated outputs and outcomes)
- A technically/scientifically sound approach for addressing one or more SNEP priorities
- Roles of each partner and their involvement (including partnerships that may be under development, and how their resources will support the proposed project activities)

NOTE: applicants that do not include partners in their project will be evaluated based on the extent to which they demonstrate how they will be able to effectively perform and complete the project without collaboration.

Environmental Results and Measuring Progress (20 points)

- Reasonableness of expected environmental results
- Approach for measuring progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes

NOTE: If monitoring is a key objective or significant component of the initial proposal, EPA will consider the quality and scope of its ability to measure environmental results and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be required.

Budget Summary (20 points)

- Reasonableness of budget given project scope and environmental results as presented in the 424A form
- Description of aligned with project tasks, including description of project match
- Description of costs in the 424A form must align with project description

More Information...

- Basics On Competing for EPA Assistance Programs
 - how to find and apply for grant opportunities; EPA's new Grants.gov requirement; and preparing a proper budget detail
 - <http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-award-process-webinars>

Questions?

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