



Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program

Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI)

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Opportunity Announcement: The 2nd round of the Long Island Sound (LIS) Resilience Planning Support Program was announced December 6, 2024 and the **deadline for Expressions of Interest is 11:59 PM on February 7, 2025**. For answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) see the [FAQ Document](#) & [Flow Chart](#).

Program Summary

Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program

NYSG and CTSG will provide assistance to NY and CT communities within the LIS Coastal Boundary to help identify and develop sustainability and resilience-focused projects. This program aims to help communities assess local climate risks, conceptualize project ideas, and conduct preliminary planning efforts/steps in order to be well positioned to access funding to design and implement successful sustainability and resilience-focused projects. At the conclusion of this Program, it is anticipated that awardees will be ready to seek funding for resilience-focused projects and can choose to utilize the Grant Writing Assistance Program.

With funding from US EPA through the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSG) will provide municipalities, nonprofits, and community organizations assistance with scoping and planning for sustainability and resilience focused projects that will impact a community(ies) within or partially within the [Long Island Sound \(LIS\) Coastal Boundary](#). An eligible entity who applies to the LIS Resilience Planning Support Program (hereafter referred to as the “Applicant”) may request support for climate change risk assessments, project scoping, and preliminary planning efforts from a qualified service provider that is competitively procured through Cornell University (Cornell)/University of Connecticut (UConn) (hereafter referred to as the “Contractor”). Match will not be required.

Goal and Background

The work of the LISS Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group and dedicated NYSG and CTSG Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professionals (SRC EPs) has shown that for communities across New York (NY) and Connecticut (CT), obtaining funding is one of the main barriers to planning, designing, and implementing sustainability and resilience-focused projects. We have also heard that there is a lack of capacity, expertise, and resources to prepare and apply for funding. Moreover, additional support for identifying, conceptualizing, and developing projects is needed to implement more sustainability and resilience-focused projects.

To address these barriers, the SRC EPs have established two Programs – the Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program and the Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program to assist communities within the LIS Coastal Boundary across NY and CT. These Programs address the main barriers. See more information about the Programs on the [LIS Resilience Resource Hub](#).

Program Description

Communities that participate in the Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program can receive support for project scoping and planning at the local or regional level. This support may include, but is not limited to:

- Climate change risk and/or vulnerability assessment
- Strategy development and project planning
- Project prioritization and funding guidance
- Preliminary community engagement
- Project site feasibility and conceptual design

The support offered through this program should help foster a sustainable and resilient Long Island Sound and the end products supported through this program should advance a community’s efforts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, and recover from the effects of natural disturbances (e.g., sea level rise, storms and other extreme events, and human impacts),

while promoting social, environmental, and/or economic well-being for all communities, particularly those communities with environmental justice concerns. The work supported through this program must advance one or more of [The 2020 LISS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Implementation Actions \(IA\)s of focus for the Long Island Sound Resilience Assistance Programs](#).

Support and Duration

We anticipate supporting between 10 and 20 awards throughout the [LIS Coastal Boundary](#) (within Westchester, Bronx, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk counties, western Connecticut, and eastern Connecticut). Up to \$1 million will be available for this Program. In the past, we funded projects ranging from \$35,000 - \$115,000 and we are considering funding projects in the same range this year. Support will be provided for up to 2 years (as determined by the specific project scope). Match will not be required.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to municipalities, intermunicipal councils/organizations, nonprofits, non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Private Voluntary Organization (PVOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Academic entities, and Federally and State recognized Tribes/Nations as well as unrecognized indigenous communities in need of project scoping and planning services for sustainability and resilience focused projects that will impact a community(ies) within or partially within the [LIS Coastal Boundary](#) (within Westchester, Bronx, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk counties, western Connecticut, and eastern Connecticut) - See Figure 1. One Expression of Interest is accepted per Applicant.



Figure 1: LIS Coastal Boundary in pink.

Application Instructions

To apply, you may: (1) Fill out and submit the online [Expression of Interest Google Form](#) (2) Fill out and attach the [Expression of Interest Form](#) document via email to LISresilience@gmail.com; or (3) Fill out and send the [Expression of Interest Form](#) document by mail (mailing address on Form). For reference, see [example Expression of Interest](#).

Review and Feedback Process/Timeline

Review and Feedback Process	Description	Anticipated Timeline
Opportunity Released	Request for Expressions of Interest released and application period begins.	December 6, 2024
Open Feedback Period	An Open Feedback Period will be available to interested entities prior to the submission of their Expression of Interest, which may involve phone calls/emails with program staff to determine eligibility and provide feedback.	December 6, 2024 - February 7, 2025
Opportunity Closes	Application period closes at 11:59 PM.	February 7, 2025
Expression of Interest Review	At the end of the application period Expressions of Interest will be reviewed based on the below Evaluation Criteria by NYSG and CTSG SRC EPs. Follow-up calls will be scheduled with Applicants to further discuss the Expression of Interest and their needs.	February 2025 - April 2025
Candidate Notification	Applicants will be notified within approximately 8 weeks of the close of the application period to let them know if they are a candidate to receive support through the LIS Resilience Planning Support Program (hereafter referred to as "Candidates"). Candidates will work with the NYSG and CTSG SRC EPs to develop the project description that will be included within the Request for Qualifications (RFQ).	April 2025

Contractors Procurement Process	Cornell and UConn will competitively procure qualified contractors to support Candidates through the RFQ.	April - June 2025
Award Notification	Once Contractor(s) are hired by Cornell/UConn, Candidates will be notified if they are selected to receive an award (hereafter referred to as "Awardees")	Summer 2025
Anticipated Contract Start	Once scopes of work are finalized, Contractor(s) will start providing service to the Awardees.	Summer/Fall 2025

Candidate Selection Criteria

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed based on the below Selection Criteria and feedback will be provided on all Expressions of Interest in writing. Applicants will be notified within approximately 8 weeks of the close of the application period to let them know if they are a Candidate to receive support through the LIS Resilience Planning Support Program. The program will only fund projects that have an impact within or partially within the [LIS Coastal Boundary](#) (within Westchester, Bronx, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk counties, western Connecticut, and eastern Connecticut) and for which the applicant has the authority to implement projects related to the proposed work.

1. Demonstration of project need and goal is well defined, and supports the advancement of sustainable and resilient Long Island Sound communities. Projects should advance a community’s efforts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, and recover from the effects of natural disturbances (e.g., sea level rise, storms and other extreme events, and human impacts), while promoting social, environmental, and/or economic well-being for all (score 1-5).
2. Project benefits communities with environmental justice concerns or address environmental justice concerns (score 1-5).
3. Project advances one or more of the [2020 LISS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Implementation Actions \(IA\)s of focus for the Long Island Sound Resilience Assistance Programs](#) (score 1-5).

Awardee Selection Criteria

Once Contractor(s) are hired by Cornell/UConn, Candidates will be notified if they are selected to receive an award. Priority will be given to Candidates that score the highest on the above criteria. Candidates whose Expressions of Interest are selected to receive services from a Contractor are determined to be the Awardee(s).

Additional considerations will be applied to the final selection of Awardees:

1. Awardees will be selected in order to geographically balance awards throughout the LIS Coastal Boundary. Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received support through the Planning Support Program.
2. All award determinations are subject to availability of funds and resources to support the needs identified in the Expression of Interest.
3. Engagement of a Contractor qualified to complete the work.

Award

Each Awardee will be sent an Acceptance of Support Letter by NYSG/CTSG (depending on whether the community is located in NY or CT) to outline the agreement and expectations of the Awardee, Contractor, and NYSG/CTSG. NYSG (Cornell)/CTSG (UConn) will then develop a contract(s) with the selected Contractor(s) to provide support for each Awardee of this Program. The Contractor(s) will carry out the tasks identified in the scope of the contract in consultation with the Awardee. Awardees may be asked to approve products and deliverables before payment is dispersed to the Contractor. Fund dispersal will take place in compliance with Cornell/UConn's policies and procedures. Note that no funds will pass through the Awardee organizations.

US EPA Funding

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