



Long Island Sound Study

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Sustainable and Resilient Communities

2nd Annual Connecticut Funding Workshop

Monday, March 31, 2025 | 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Workshop Rules



Please silence
your phones



Presentation
slides will made
available



Save questions
for designated
times



Give everyone a
chance to
participate
during the
breakouts



10:00 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks
10:10 AM	SRC Resources & Assistance Programs
10:20 AM	Funder/Assistance Program Lightning Talk Presentations
11:45 AM	Successful Awardees Panel
12:15 AM	Lunch / Networking
1:00 PM	Resilience Planning Guide Activity
1:15 PM	Roundtable Discussions with Funders
2:15 PM	Wrap-up & Final Thoughts



**Long Island
Sound Study**

A Partnership to Restore
and Protect the Sound



2025 Comprehensive Conservation & Management Proposed Goals

1. Clean Waters & Healthy Watersheds
2. Thriving Habitats & Abundant Wildlife
3. Informed & Engaged Public
4. Sustainable & Resilient Communities

Goal: Empower communities to plan for and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all.



Informed Decision-Makers

Grow the number of municipal, nonprofit, and community leaders receiving training and support to increase capacity for adaptation to environmental challenges.



Community-Driven Resilience Planning

Increase the number of municipalities that identify key resilience priorities through local and/or regional community-driven planning processes.



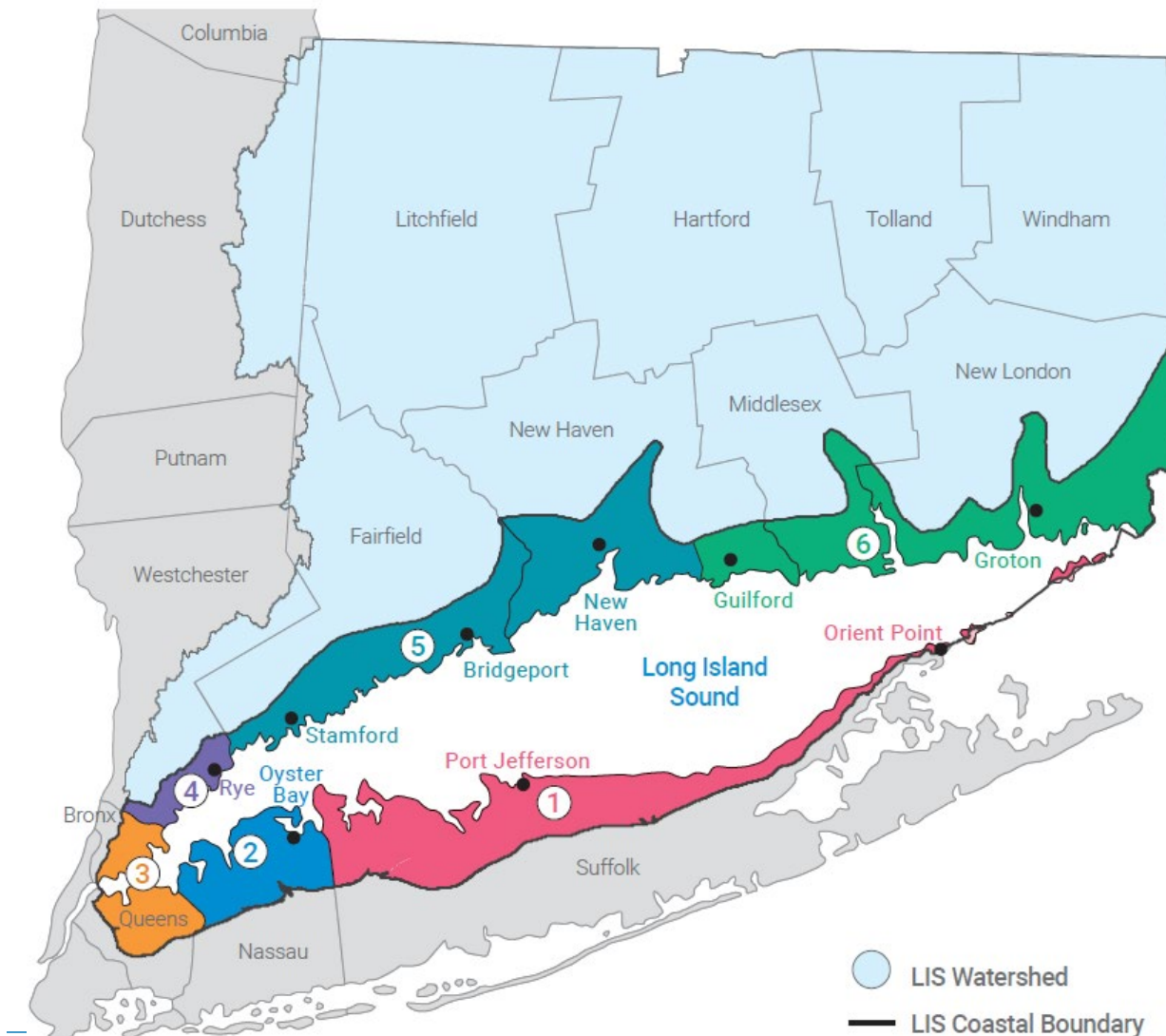
Resilience Initiative Implementation

Implement initiatives to improve community resilience to flooding and other environmental challenges.

The SRC Extension Professionals Team



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- 1** Suffolk County
Elizabeth Hornstein
- 2** Nassau County
Sarah Schaefer-Brown
- 3** NYC - Bronx & Queens
Ben Goldberg
- 4** Westchester County
Sara Powell
- 5** Western CT
Deb Visco Abibou
- 6** Eastern CT
Sarah Schechter



***A Sustainable and Resilient Long Island Sound Community** is one which can anticipate and overcome disturbances, while achieving well-being for all.*





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SRC Resources & Assistance Programs

Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed Waterfest
Credit: Sarah Schechter





Finding climate resources should be easy

The Long Island Sound Resilience Resource Hub is here to help your community. Learn about environmental challenges, planning solutions, and how to implement and sustain projects now.

Select your Planning Phase, Location, and/or Topic of interest to access a filtered selection of our curated resources and tools.

Planning Phase

Select a Planning Phase



Location

Select a Location



Topic

Select a Topic



Get Started

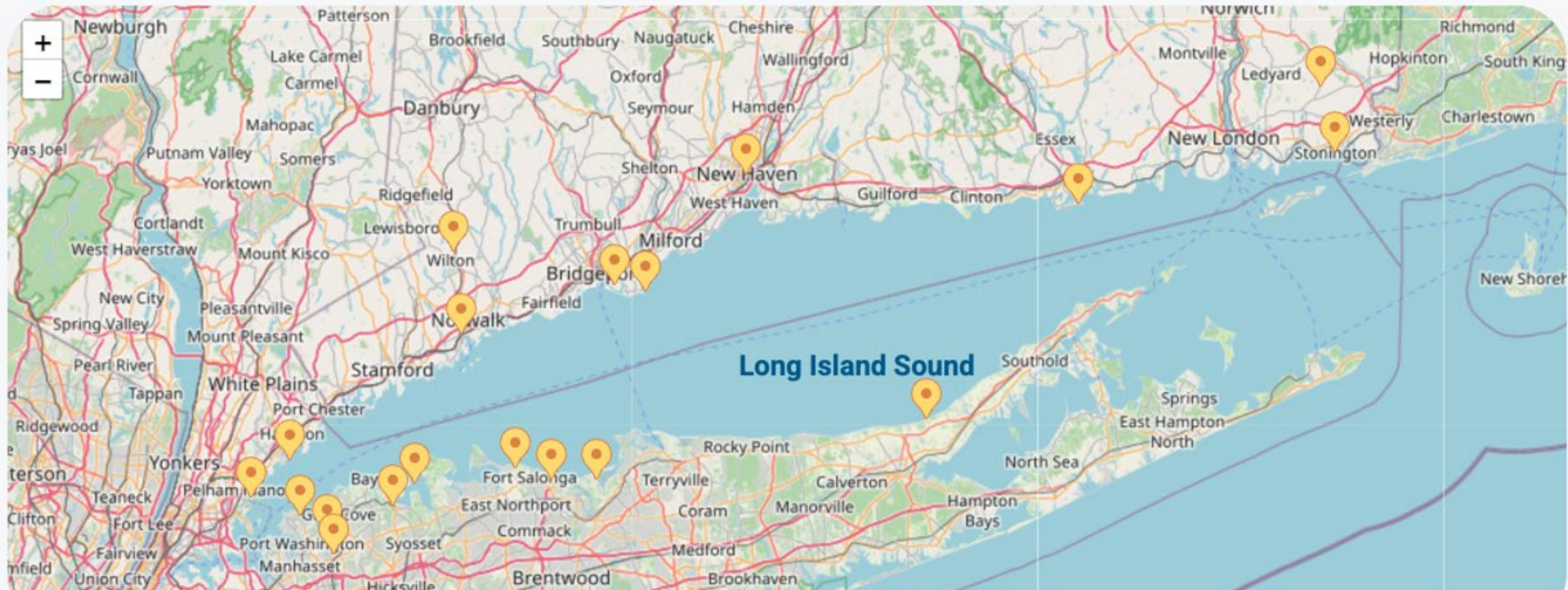
Resilience Planning Steps & Strategies



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Case Studies

Learn about other climate change resiliency projects in the Long Island Sound.





Funding Database



Funding Database

Find funding for your project

Filters

Select one or more of the filters below to find relevant tools and resources for your needs

Status


Select a Status


Planning Phase

Select a Planning Phase

Location

Select a Location

 Funding

 Open: Due on Mar 21, 2025

2 days
remaining to apply

Climate Smart Communities Initiative

The Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) provides funding, expertise, training, and other resources to help communities advance their climate resilience plans and projects while also developing the strategies and...

New York State Connecticut State

Flooding Nature-based Solutions Sea Level Rise Planning

Extreme Weather & Storms Community Engagement

Green Infrastructure

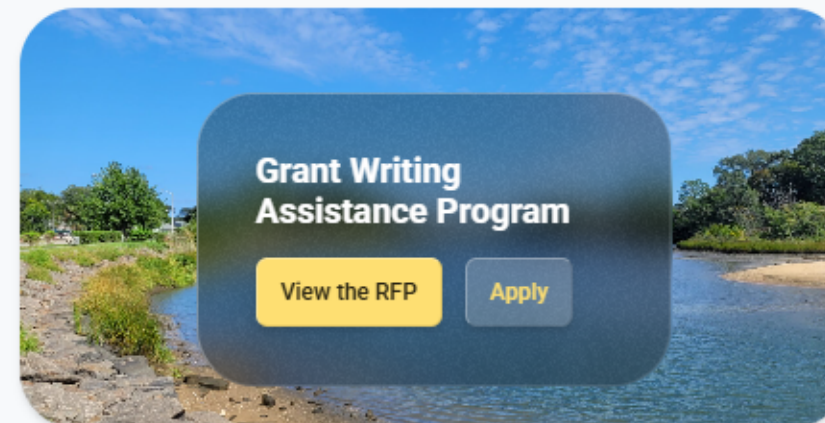
[View Details](#)

Grant Writing Assistance Program

As of October 1st, 2024 a third round of the Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Support Program is available.

The Program assists NY and CT communities within the LIS Coastal Boundary to hire a grant writing consultant to develop successful sustainability and resilience-focused project grant proposals and increase capacity within municipalities and community organizations to navigate the funding landscape. Up to \$9,950 in funding is available per application and match is not required! The Program is open on a rolling basis until all the available funding has been allocated.

To learn more see the Request for Proposals (RFP) linked on the right.



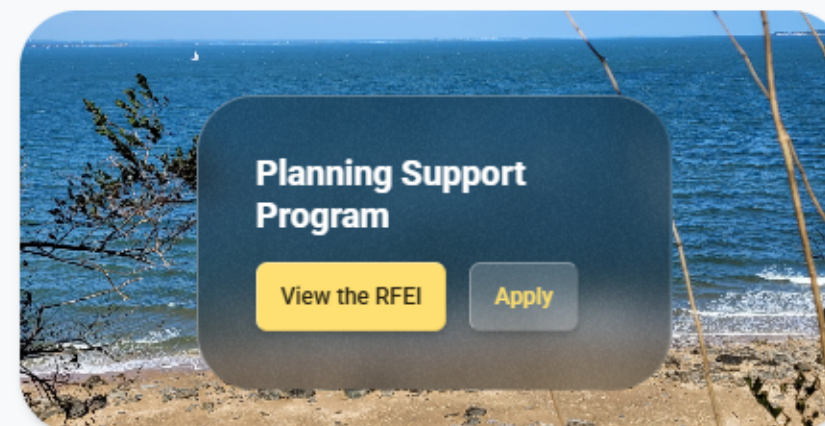
Planning Support Program

As of **December 6th, 2024** a second round of the Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program is available!

Deadline to apply is February 7th, 2025. Up to \$1 million will be available.

The Program provides planning support to advance climate resilience-focused projects by matching communities within the LIS Coastal Boundary across NY and CT with qualified contractors to assist with assessing local climate risks, conceptualizing project ideas, and conducting preliminary planning efforts. The support is provided at no cost to the communities and no match is required!

To learn more see the Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) linked on the right. **We encourage you to reach out to the SRC EP in your region before applying!**





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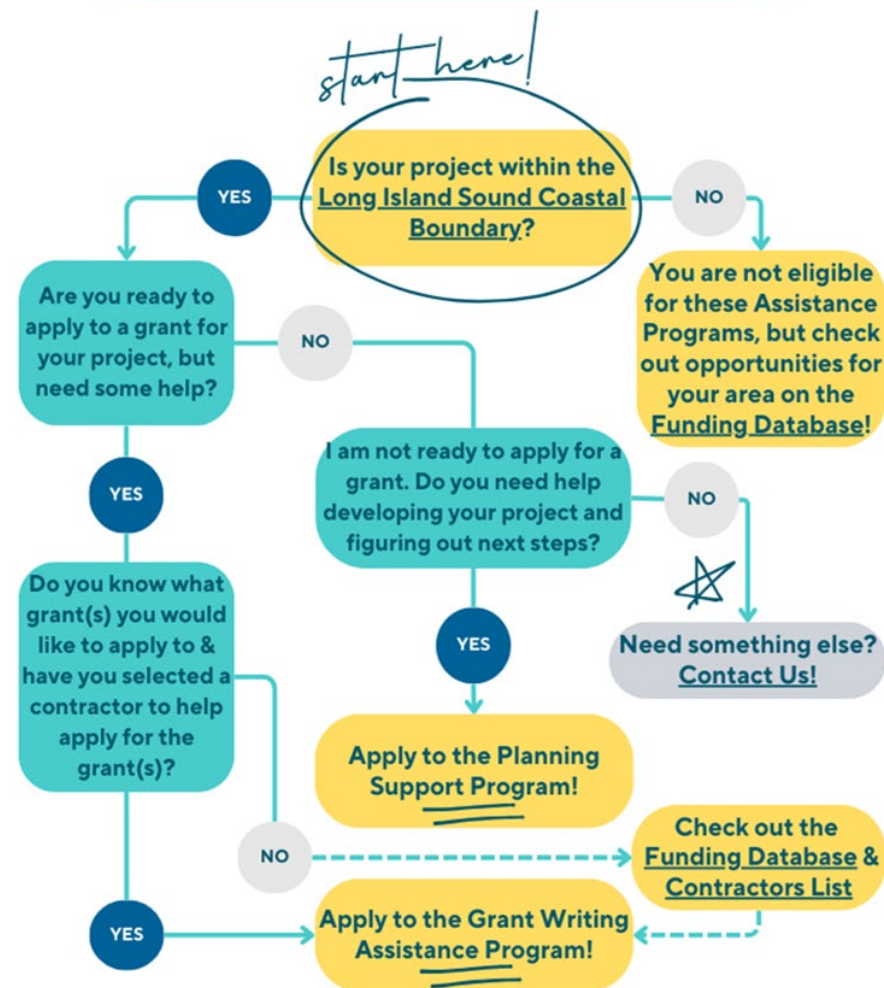


SRC Resilience Assistance Programs



What Assistance Program is right for me?

Click on the image to interact



Assist with the development of sustainability and resilience focused projects that will **impact a community or communities within or partially within the Long Island Sound coastal boundary.**



Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program



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Credit: Sarah Schechter

Goal: To advance sustainable and resilience focused projects to a design or implementation grant-ready stage

Type of Technical Assistance: Project Scoping and Planning

Application Period:

Round 1 – October 16th, 2023 - December 15th, 2023

Round 2 – December 6th, 2024 - February 7th, 2025

Award Amount: 1st round awards were between \$35K-\$115K

*No funds are given to the applicants, funds are reimbursed directly to contractor.

Match: None required

Expression of Interest Submission Options: Google Form, LISResilience@gmail.com, or via mail



Examples of Types of Projects Eligible



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 sustainable and resilience focused projects. 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

Planning Support Program Round 1

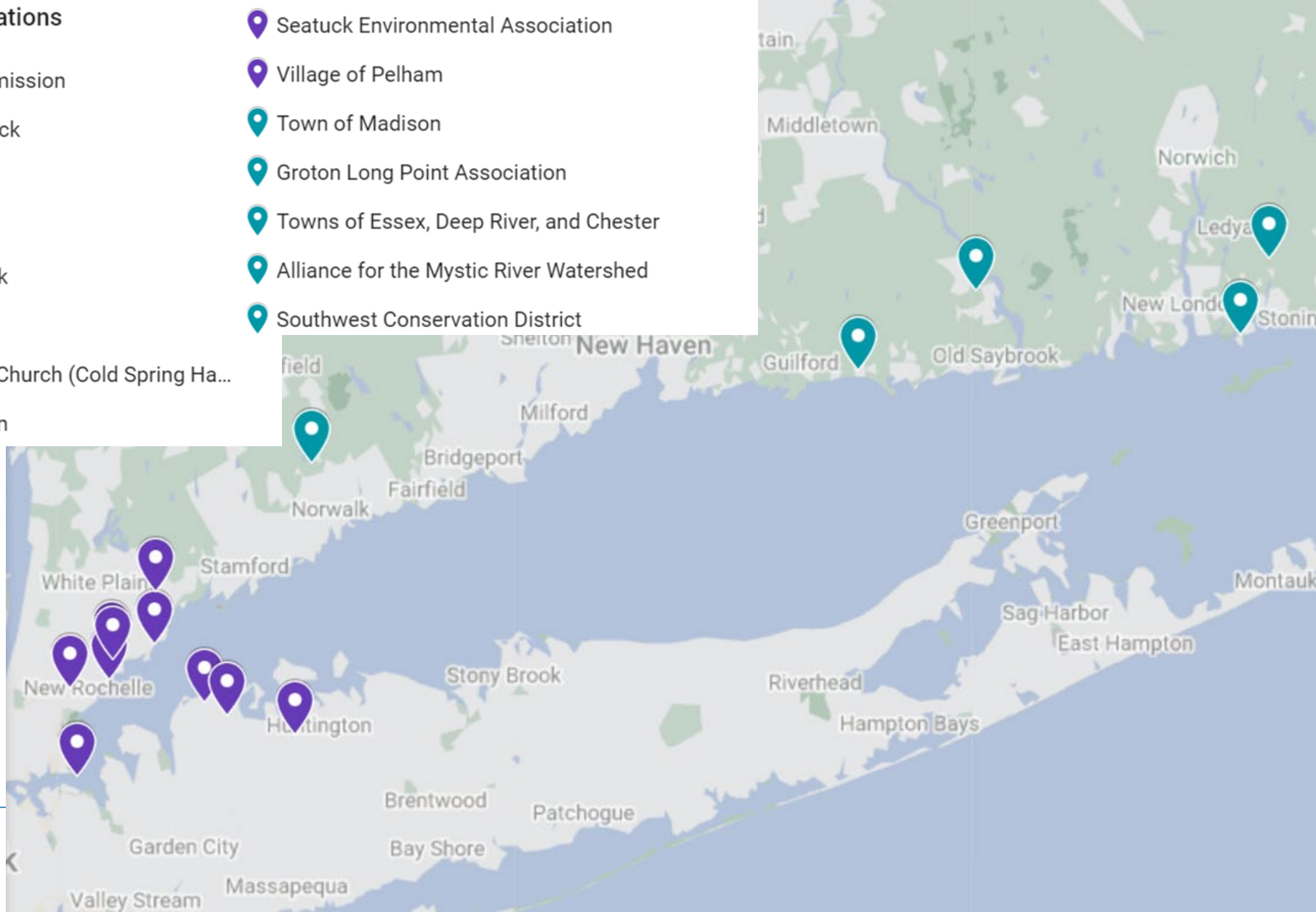


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2024 PSP project locations

- 📍 Rye Town Park Commission
- 📍 Village of Mamaroneck
- 📍 Village of Larchmont
- 📍 Village of Rye Brook
- 📍 Town of Mamaroneck
- 📍 SUNY Maritime
- 📍 St. John's Episcopal Church (Cold Spring Ha...)
- 📍 Village of Lattingtown
- 📍 Seatuck Environmental Association
- 📍 Village of Pelham
- 📍 Town of Madison
- 📍 Groton Long Point Association
- 📍 Towns of Essex, Deep River, and Chester
- 📍 Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed
- 📍 Southwest Conservation District



Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program



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Goal: To secure funding for sustainable and resilience-focused projects

Type of Technical Assistance: Grant Preparation and Writing Support (Budget preparation, Cost-benefit analysis, Writing and narrative development. Mapping, Application preparation and submission)

Application Period: Rolling basis until all available funding is allocated

Award Amount: Up to \$9,950 per application directly to contractor. Each Application should focus on one discrete project. **Applicants can now submit multiple Applications.**

Match: None required

Application Submission Options: Google Form, LISResilience@gmail.com, or via mail



Credit: Residents Forward

Application Questions



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Applicant Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Name of applicant organization or municipality→ Address of applicant→ Point of contact
Grant Preparation & Writing Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Identify the preferred consultant(s) to work with→ Describe the kinds of support activities that are needed through this program→ Include a budget and a budget justification
Funding Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Identify the targeted funding opportunity(ies)→ Identify who will receive the funds from the targeted funding opportunity(ies)
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Project location→ Describe how the project will advance sustainability and resilience in a community(ies) within or partially within the Long Island Sound Coastal boundary and address environmental justice concerns→ Identify the project type and associated activities or desired outcomes for which funding is needed→ List the Project Team, including lead applicant and any co-applicants→ <i>Describe any community or stakeholder engagement to date regarding this project (Optional)</i>→ <i>Describe any relevant grant application history (Optional)</i>→ <i>Include any other relevant supporting information (Optional)</i>

----Total----

31 awards **\$258,917** allocated

--FY22 & FY23 --

30% success rate

\$28 to \$1 ROI



Project Types:

- Watershed plans, and feasibility and engineering studies for beach, wetland, and living shoreline projects
- Implementation of green infrastructure, habitat restoration, public access improvements
- Community outreach engagement, education, and participatory science projects
- Shell recycling and oyster gardening programs
- Vacuum truck purchase



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Funding Program Lightning Talks!

Canal Dock Boathouse
Credit: Deb Visco Abibou



Long Island Sound Futures Fund



Carrie Clingan

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Program Director, Northeast Watersheds

Long Island Sound Futures Fund

Long Island Sound Futures Fund



- **What does your program fund?**

Projects to fully restore the health and living resources of Long Island Sound

- **Program Priorities**

- Implementation,
- Education and Public Participation
- Design/Planning

- **Timeline: March 27-May 29**

- **How much \$ is available?**

- Dependent on EPA funding, anticipated will be about \$11.5M

- **Are there match requirements?**

- 1 : 0.5 match ratio
- \$100,000 grant would require \$50,000 in matching contributions

- **Who is eligible?**

- Non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local government, municipal government, Tribal Governments/Organizations and educational institutions

Long Island Sound Futures Fund



Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - Looking for a detailed proposal aligns closely with the program priorities and includes a project team that supports the level of effort required to achieve the outcomes proposed and is cost-effective.
 - **Common mistakes/pitfalls:**
 - Answer each of the narrative questions, be detailed in the budget and metrics narrative and notes sections
 - **Any other considerations:**
 - Include what makes the project unique and timely!
-

LIS Stewardship Fund



Tripp Killin

Agency: Jeniam Foundation

Role: Executive Director

What funding/assistance program you're here to represent: Long Island Sound

Funders Collaborative's Stewardship Fund

LIS Stewardship Fund



- **What does your program do?**

- We fund CCMP projects.

- **What are the priorities?**

- Piloting and Planning
- New Collaboration
- Capacity Building

- **When is the Money available?**

- RFP in Dec, Money in March

- **How much \$ is available?**

- \$400 – \$600k overall
- \$15k – \$200k per project

- **Are there match requirements?**

- No

- **Who is eligible?**

- 501(c)(3) orgs
-

Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - Read the Request for Proposal,
 - Only apply if what you want funded and what we want to fund actually overlap!
-

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES



Shahela Begum

Restore America's Estuaries

Program Director

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES



- **What does your program fund?**
 - LISCIF provides funds for project priorities listed below, located in Connecticut and New York.
- **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**
 - Projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention or reduction.
 - Restoring habitat within the Important Coastal Habitat Types targeted by LISS.
 - Projects that foster a diverse balance and abundant populations of fish, birds, and wildlife.
 - Public engagement, knowledge, and stewardship.
 - Projects that enhance community resilience and sustainability.
 - Planning and design that set-the-stage for implementation of water quality projects, eligible habitat restoration projects and resilience projects.
 - Community-based science projects.
 - Data management and integration projects.
 - Other similar activities that the applicant proposes, and EPA approves, that are consistent with section 119 of the Clean Water Act.
- **When is the funding available?**
 - RFA Release: Fall 2025
- **How much \$ is available?**
 - \$1.25 million
- **Are there match requirements?**
 - No match requirements.
- **Who is eligible?**
 - Tribal Nations
 - Non-Profit Organizations
 - Municipalities
 - Academic Institutions



Tips for Success

- **What makes a grant proposal competitive?**
 - Attend informational grant webinars and trainings.
 - Request 1-1 support as needed.
 - Directly answer questions in the application.
- **Common mistakes/pitfalls:**
 - Waiting until the last minute to log-on to the application portal.
 - Forgetting deadlines.
- **Any other considerations:**
 - Meaningfully engage community – show collaborations.
 - Build out stipends and participant support costs.

DEEP Funding Opportunities & Programs



Niles Dookie

CT DEEP

Federal Grants Policy Advisor

DEEP Funding Opportunities and Programs

DEEP'S Grants & Financial Assistance Page



[CT.gov Home](#) / [Department of Energy & Environmental Protection](#) / [Grants and Financial Assistance](#)

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[Energy](#)

[Environmental Quality](#)

[Natural Resources](#)

[Outdoor Recreation](#)

[Public Utilities Regulatory Authority \(PURA\)](#)

Search Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

by Keyword

Grants and Financial Assistance

For more information on BIL & IRA-specific federal funding, please visit [DEEP's BIL & IRA Updates page](#).

Below is a list of active funding opportunities administered by DEEP. For more information on a specific program, please click the grant title link.

[View Closed Funding Opportunities](#)

Current Funding Opportunities:

[Energy](#) | [Open Space](#) | [Outdoor Recreation](#)



[Solar for All](#)

Federal grant from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to increase access to distributed solar and energy storage technologies for low-income and disadvantaged communities. DEEP has five years to spend the \$62.45 million grant and will focus on multi-family affordable housing in implementing the Solar for All funding through Project SunBridge. DEEP encourages participation in stakeholder and community engagement opportunities as the details of Project SunBridge implementation are determined. Funding is expected to be available to customers in 2025.

Application Deadline: To be determined

Grant Closed Date: August 31, 2029

Point of Contact: DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov

[Grid Resilience State/Tribal Grant Program](#)

Federal grant from the US DOE which will support the efficient and reliable integration of variable and distributed energy resources needed to meet the state's 100% zero-carbon electric sector goal and avoid fossil peaking generation. DEEP will receive a total of \$16 million over a period of five years. Grant funds will be used to improve system reliability and resilience in various weather and storm conditions as well as to attract, train, and retain a skilled and local workforce, especially from disadvantaged communities. There is not an active request for proposals to select projects. DEEP has not yet selected projects for the funding.

- Main source for DEEP funding opportunities
- New tools for grantseekers coming soon

DEEP Funding Opportunities & Programs



Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - Bookmark the page
 - Check constantly
 - Don't be afraid to ask questions
-

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund



Christopher Field

CT DEEP

Director, Office of Planning and Resilience

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

Please send questions to DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov

Or for questions about resilience funding in general, reach out to Christopher Field
christopher.field@ct.gov

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF) motivation and goals

- Support the development of project pipelines to maximize state and federal funding for resilience projects
- Build on the long-standing work of programs across DEEP including: DEEP Urban and Community Forestry grants, DEEP Clean Water Fund, LISS, Microgrid Grant Program

2023 DCRF outcomes

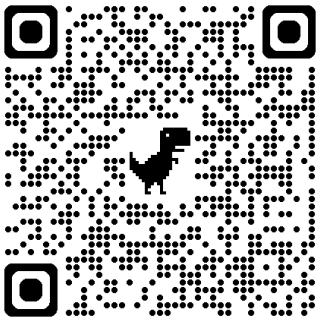
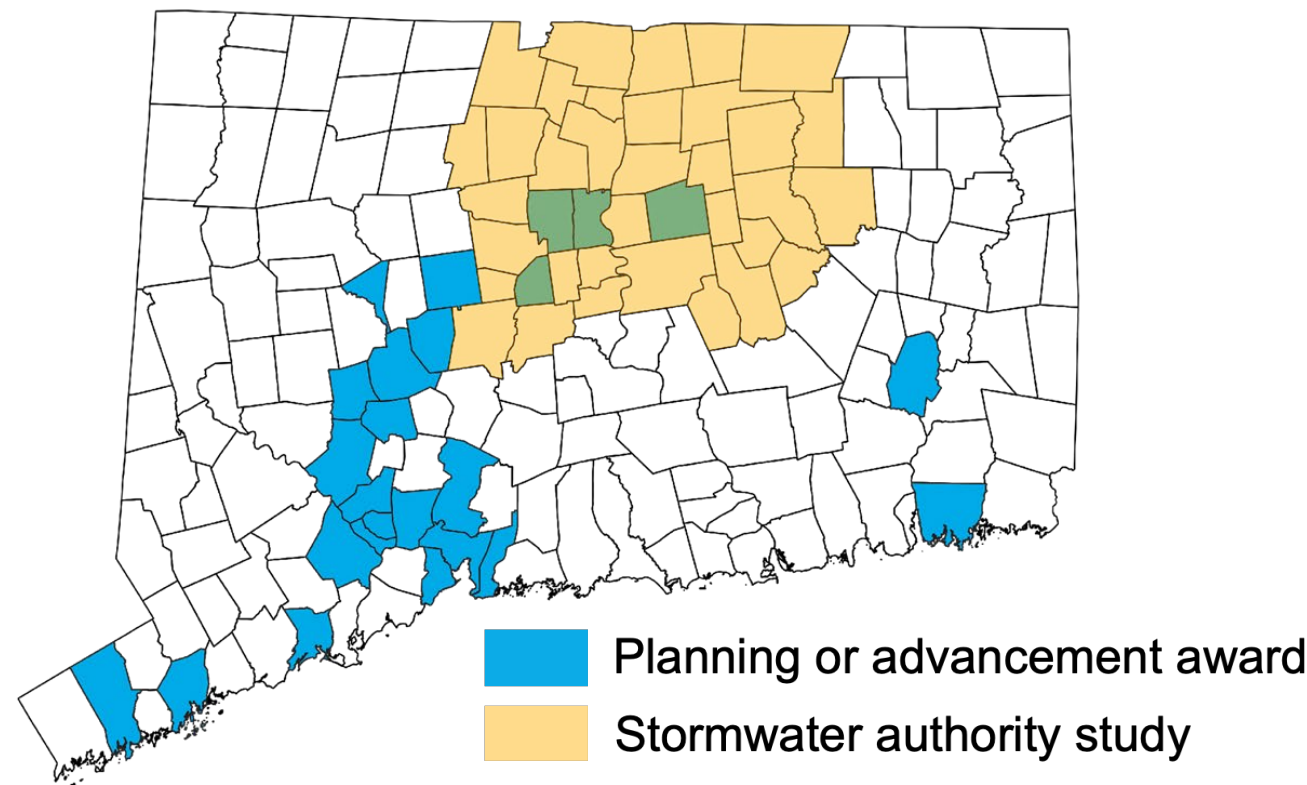
- First round of funding supported resilience plans and project planning from the scale of individual projects through COG-wide efforts

DEEP is preparing request for proposals for the second round of funding in 2025

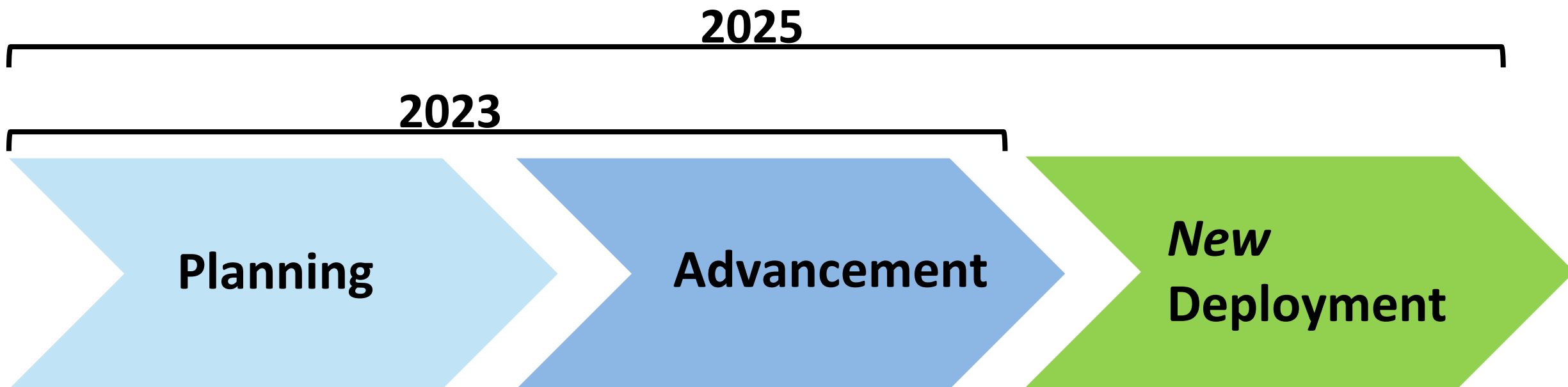


2023 DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF) outcomes

More than \$8.7 million awarded, more than half of which benefited vulnerable communities



Proposed structure for the next round of DCRF (spring/summer 2025)



New category for *deployment* provides funds toward the match requirements of implementation and construction projects. A pilot program for this category, *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC*, was released earlier this year.



CT DEEP CWA § 319 NPS Management Grant



Erik Bedan

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

Supervising Environmental Analyst, Watersheds Program

Federal Clean Water Act § 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant

CT DEEP CWA § 319 NPS Management Grant



- **What does your program fund?**

- Planning or implementation projects that address nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution.

- **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**

Anticipate similar to FY25 priorities:

- Projects implementing a Watershed Based Plan;
- Projects within priority watersheds;
- Natural hazard adaptation through NPS solutions;
- High impact or ready-to-implement projects;
- Agricultural land use projects.

- **When is the funding available?**

- Typically: annual Request for Proposals is Nov-Feb; awards announced in Aug; execute DEEP contracts within Jan-Mar.

- **How much \$ is available?**

- About \$1.2 million annually is available for awards.

- **Are there match requirements?**

- 40% match for each award, may waive in some cases.

- **Who is eligible?**

- Local/state government, quasi-state agencies, schools/universities, nonprofits, community groups. Recipients must be registered with CT Secretary of State.

CT DEEP CWA § 319 NPS Management Grant



Tips for Success

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Submit a completed application to address NPS pollution, including milestones and measurable outcomes that a project is anticipated to have upon completion.
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Contract process for the award is comprehensive – work cannot begin and funding is not available until a contract with DEEP is executed, careful planning is required with budgeting and partners.
 2. The program is prioritizing funds for fewer, larger projects annually.
 3. Projects for stormwater permits requirements are not eligible; but addressing stormwater above and beyond the permit requirements may be eligible.
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Awards vary in range, many between \$100,000 - \$400,000 but there are no restrictions in the application.
 - CT DEEP has recently made efforts to streamline the grant process; applicants should be ready to submit a work plan soon after project award notification.
-

Urban Forest Equity Urban Forest Resilience



Les Welker

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Contracted Grant Program Specialist with Wildlife Management Institute

Urban Forest Equity & Urban Forest Resilience Grant Programs

Urban Forest Equity



- **What does your program fund?**

- Urban forestry projects in disadvantaged communities. Project types include tree planting and maintenance, invasive species control, education and outreach, urban wood utilization, and others.

- **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**

- Workforce development, impervious surface removal, tree planting as means of extreme heat mitigation

- **When is the funding available?**

- Anticipated RFP release in June 2025

- **How much \$ is available?**

- Approximately \$1 Million

- **Are there match requirements?**

- NO MATCH

- **Who is eligible?**

- State and local government, federally recognized tribes, non-profit organizations, public institutions of higher education

Urban Forest Resilience



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Efforts to restore and improve urban forests lost due to catastrophic losses from emerald ash borer and other forest pests.
 - **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**
 - Hazard tree removal and replacement
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Anticipated RFP release in June 2025
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - \$143,000
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - 50% match required
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - State and local government, federally recognized tribes, non-profit organizations
-

Urban Forest Equity

Urban Forest Resilience



Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - Demonstrate local buy-in and ongoing community engagement.
 - Be in contact with DEEP's UCF program with questions or for feedback. Attend bi-weekly office hours.
 - Convey clear methodology and deliverables. Keep the scope of work focused and concise.
-

CT Recreational Trails



Kimberly Bradley

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

CT Trails and Greenway Program Coordinator, Division of State Parks & Public Outreach

Connecticut Recreational Trails Grant Program

CT Recreational Trails



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Planning and design and construction of new trails;
 - Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
 - Acquisition of land or easements for a trail, or for trail corridors;
 - Educational programs
 - **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**
 - Community connectivity
 - Increased Accessibility
 - Distressed Municipalities / Environmental Justice
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Based on Bond Commission, Anticipate Summer/Fall 2025
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - \$10 million 2025
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - 20 % Match Requirement
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Nonprofits, Municipalities, COGs, Tribal Gov.
-

CT Recreational Trails



Tips for Success

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Clear and complete application, review grant application guidelines and follow the templates.
- **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Projects need to address trails as the primary focus!
 2. Planning/Design projects can include environmental review information and public outreach within the scope.
 3. Projects NEED to have access and approval, even on state lands.
- **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - CT Recreational Grant Guidelines and an interactive Story Map Tool can be found here:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Business-and-Financial-Assistance/Grants-Financial-Assistance/CT-Recreational-Trails>

OSWA, UGCG, & ORLP



Lindsay Suhr

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Office Director, Land Acquisition and Management

Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant (OSWA)

Urban Green & Community Garden Grant (UGCG)

Land & Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation & Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP)

Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Purchase of permanent interests in land
 - **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**

4 main areas for scoring:

 1. Administrative
 2. Public Access & Outdoor Recreation
 3. Environmental Justice & Equity
 4. Climate Change & Natural Resources
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Next round will open end of May/early June
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - Based on appraisal price of property
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - Up to 65% or 75% of fair market value price covered depending on location
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Municipalities, non-profit conservation organizations & water companies
-

Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant



Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - Contact us if you have questions - Allyson Clarke – Allyson.Clarke@ct.gov or 860-424-3774
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 - Need an appraisal and appraisal review for application
 - Should work on a purchase and sale agreement with current property owner
 - The process can be complicated and take quite some time
-

Urban Green & Community Garden Grant



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Creation, enhancement or restoration of urban green space: green infrastructure, community gardens, passive recreational trails, etc.
 - **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**
 - Green infrastructure – rain gardens, bioswales, native plantings
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Next round will open end of May/early June
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - No upper limit on request, but can only be 20% of yearly grants from OSWA/UGCG pool of funding
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - 50 %
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Non-profits or Municipalities in Distressed Municipality, Environmental Justice Community, or Targeted Investment Community
-

Urban Green & Community Garden Grant



Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - Contact us if you have questions – Steven Perry– steven.perry@ct.gov or 860-424-3603
 - Provide a clear budget and project proposal tied to drawing/site plan
 - Volunteer hours/donated materials count as match
 - The project can be used for a portion of a larger park improvement project
 - Cannot be used to pay for park infrastructure – playgrounds, ball fields, courts, etc.
-

Outdoor Recreation and Legacy Partnership Program Grant



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Public Outdoor Recreation: Land Acquisition and/or Park Enhancements-including fields, courts, playgrounds, splash pads, etc.
 - **What are the priorities for your current funding cycle?**
 - Park improvements and acquisition in underserved communities
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Open now
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - \$300,000 to \$15 Million in grant funding
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - 50 %
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Municipalities in underserved communities
-

Outdoor Recreation and Legacy Partnership Program Grant



Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - Contact us if you have questions – Cameron Clegg– Cameron.clegg@ct.gov or 860-424-3118
 - Provide a clear budget and project proposal tied to drawing/site plan
 - Must be ready to break ground 1-2 years after awarded so much of the planning has to be done prior to applying
-



Melinda Wilson

State of CT, Department of Economic and Community Development

Assistant Director, Community Investment Fund 2030

Community Investment Fund 2030

Community Investment Fund 2030



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Capital Projects
 - Small Business Programs
 - Planning
- **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**
 - Grants further consistent and systematic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities that have been denied such treatment.

- **When is the funding available?**
 - At least twice annually through 2027; Spring and Fall
- **How much \$ is available?**
 - Up to \$875,000,000; \$175,000,000/year
- **Are there match requirements?**
 - No match required
- **Who is eligible?**
 - Municipalities, Non-profit Organizations and Community Development Corporations in Public Investment Communities and/or Alliance Districts (currently 55 municipalities)

Community Investment Fund 2030



- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Intentional, transformational projects
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Read the Notice of Funding Availability, CIF Policy, and FAQs at portal.ct.gov/communityinvestmentfund
 2. Talk with CIF staff; schedule a 1:1 at portal.ct.gov/communityinvestmentfund
 3. Align the project with local and state priorities
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Minimum request is \$250,000. Minimum Capital or Small Business Program budget is \$1,500,000. Planning Grants are awarded for a set amount of \$250,000. CIF request amount is unlimited.
-

UConn Technical Assistance to Brownfields



Randi Mendes, Ph.D.

UConn Technical Assistance to Brownfields (UConn TAB)

UConn TAB – Program Director

Environmental Engineer

UConn TAB Technical Assistance & Grant Support

Email: Uconn-tab@uconn.edu

Website: Tab.program.uconn.edu

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/uconn-tab/>

Mailing List: Website

UConn TAB Services are FREE!



Direct Technical Assistance

Municipal Assistance Program

Continuing Education

Community Engagement

Technical Document
Review

- Review of Environmental Site Assessment Reports, Remedial Action Plans, Planning Documents

Brownfields Proposals
Review

- EPA Brownfields proposals (assessment, cleanup, multipurpose, RLF) and State Program proposals

Access to Resources
& Procurement
Support

- Fact sheets, example proposals, RFQ/RFP review, and documents

Online Office Hours

- Answer Technical Questions

UConn TAB Services are FREE!



Direct Technical Assistance

Municipal Assistance Program

Continuing Education

Community Engagement

Sep-Dec

Jan-April

May-Aug

EPA Brownfields
Grant Support

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Community

Info & Input

UConn
Students

Technical Work

TAB Staff

Supervise

Target Area and
Brownfield Site
Description

Community Need
(Demographics,
EJSCREEN data)

Brownfield inventories

Data Review and Gap Analysis for brownfield
sites

Grant Preparation

Site reuse planning

Community Engagement Planning and Materials

UConn TAB Services are FREE!



Direct Technical Assistance

Municipal Assistance Program

Continuing Education

Community Engagement

Spring Webinars

- Jan 29th Brownfield Redevelopment & TAB Services
- Feb 19th Brownfields: Exploring Disproportionate Environmental Impacts on Communities
- Mar 11th Community Engagement in Aging Communities
- Apr 16th Using Brownfield Funding for Local Planning (A Planner's Perspective)
- May 1st Planning for a Successful Fall EPA Brownfield Grant Application: Don't Wait Until September!
- May 22nd Grant or No Grant: Let's Navigate Your Next Move

UConn TAB Spring Webinar Series

- January 29th - Brownfield Redevelopment & TAB Services
- February 19th - Brownfields: Exploring Disproportionate Environmental Impacts on Communities
- March 11th - Community Engagement in Aging Communities
- April 16th - Using Brownfield Funding for Local Planning (A Planner's Perspective)
- May 1st - Planning for a Successful Fall EPA Brownfield Grant Application: Don't Wait Until September!

Wednesdays
12:00 PM - 12:30pm

Virtual(Webex)

Register
s.uconn.edu/springwebinar

UConn
REGION 1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELDS

All previous webinars have been recorded and can be found on our website

UConn TAB Services are FREE!



Direct Technical Assistance

Municipal Assistance Program

Continuing Education

Community Engagement

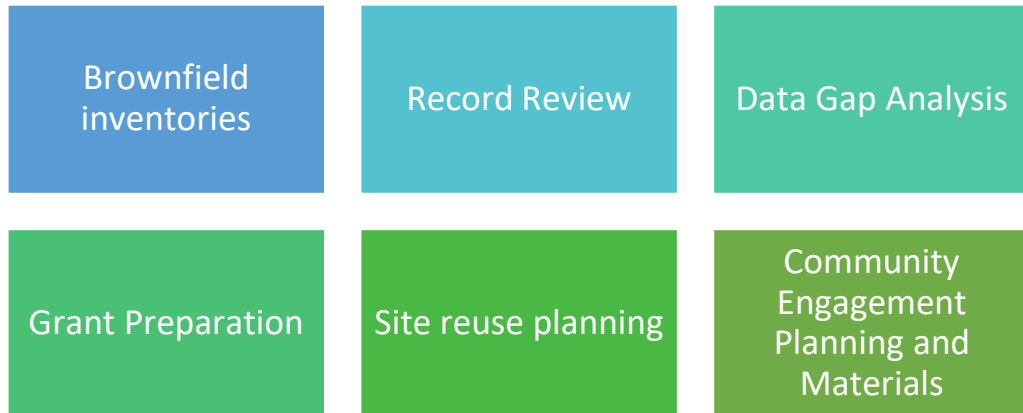


Recent & Upcoming Activities



Summer MAP

- Applications due April 25th



CI Roundtables

- WestCOG – April 3rd
- NVCOG – April 25th
- CRCOG – May 22nd
- MetroCOG – June 11th
- RiverCOG – TBD



CT Federal Funding Planning *Stronger Together Webinar*



Sarah Huang

CT Dept of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Director of Office of Equity and Environmental Justice

CT Federal Funding Planning/Stronger Together Webinar



CT Federal Funding Planning

Stronger Together Webinar



What have we done?

October 2023 – CT-based funders, federal agencies, regional partners, and state agencies came together to discuss opportunities to strengthen funding opportunities and resources for the state's grassroots and nonprofit organizations

August 2024 – 100+ grassroots organizations and nonprofits attended *Stronger Together* webinar to learn about federal funding resources and opportunities



What have we learned?

- Need to have a centralized location to easily sort funding opportunities based on eligibility
- Many groups continue to need grant writing support and technical assistance resources, such as partnerships, budget writing

What are we doing now in 2025?

- Federal funding for environmental justice communities and groups have been terminated
- Working to identify:
 - Necessary resources
 - Supplemental funding opportunities
 - Capacity-support



Jennifer O'Brien

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

Program Director

CFECT's environmental grant-making program

Environmental Grants



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Environmental grantmaking
 - **What are the priorities for your funding cycle?**
 - Conservation & resiliency
 - Environmental education
 - Environmental justice
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Applications are due annually in January (date TBD).
 - Applications will open in mid-November
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - A total of approximately \$1 million in grants will be made.
 - Average grant is \$25,000
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - No
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Programs in CFECT's 42 towns (see website for specifics)
 - 501c3 nonprofit organizations
-

Tips for Success



- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - If you are a new applicant, review the guidelines at www.cfect.org
 - Call a program officer to discuss your application idea.
 - Be sure you are delivering a program in our 42 towns of ECT.
-

Andrea Berry

**New England Environmental Finance Center
at the University of Southern Maine**

Climate Funding Manager

**New England Environmental Finance Center
Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center**

Email: andrea.berry@maine.edu

Website: neefc.org

Phone: 207-780-5016

- **What does your program assist with?**

- Environmental Justice, Environmental Quality, Energy Justice, Climate Adaptation, Environmental Health

- **What are the priority TA areas for your program?**

- Funding Navigation, Grant Support, Technical Consultations, Training Programs & Tools

- **When is the assistance available?**

- Now and ongoing!

- **Who is eligible?**

- Nonprofit Organizations
 - Community-Based & Grassroots Organizations
 - Philanthropic & Civic Organizations
 - Underserved Communities & Organizations
 - Rural & Remote Communities
 - Schools & Universities
 - Local Governments
 - Federally Recognized Tribal Nations
 - State Recognized Tribes
 - Utility Providers
-

Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success or common mistakes to avoid?**
 - **Don't be afraid to ask!**
 - We have a team of subject matter experts available to help and can bring in others if needed. If you are doing EJ work, we are there to offer support
 - **Apply for the Environmental Justice for New England grant!**
 - Round 2 of the EJ4NE grant program will be open April 18-May 30
 - We can help you choose a project, review applications, & answer questions
 - **Don't wait until the last minute!**
 - We have a limited number of folks available to offer TA. Reach out early to ensure you can get the help you need when you need it
 - Email: **TCTAC@uconn.edu** or complete a TA Request Form on the website (<https://thriving-communities-technical-assistance.program.uconn.edu/>)
-

Robert Hotaling

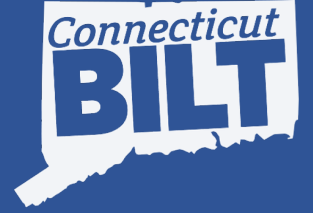
DRS – CT Bipartisan Law Team (CTBILT) & CT Federal Funds Team (CTFFT)

Deputy Advisor for Infrastructure & Federal Funds

We help businesses and municipalities navigate BIL/IIJA funding programs and IRA tax credits.

NOTE: Also serve as co-chair of CID Severe Weather Mitigation & Resiliency Advisory Council

CTBILT & CTFFT



- **What does your team assist with?**

- BIL/IIJA grant opportunity tracking, analysis, guidance and letters of support
- Municipal, business, and nonprofit (MBN) support
- CT Infrastructure Coordinator to NGA/WH

- **What are your priorities cycles?**

- Supporting MBNs pursue IIJA opportunities
- Outreach to MBNs on IRA Tax Credits

- **How much \$ is available?**

- IIJA authorized \$1.2T in total spending
- IRA authorized \$783 billion in total spending for energy and climate change, most in tax credits

- **What resources does CTBILT have?**

- Fed funds data: FFIS, USDR, NGA, etc.

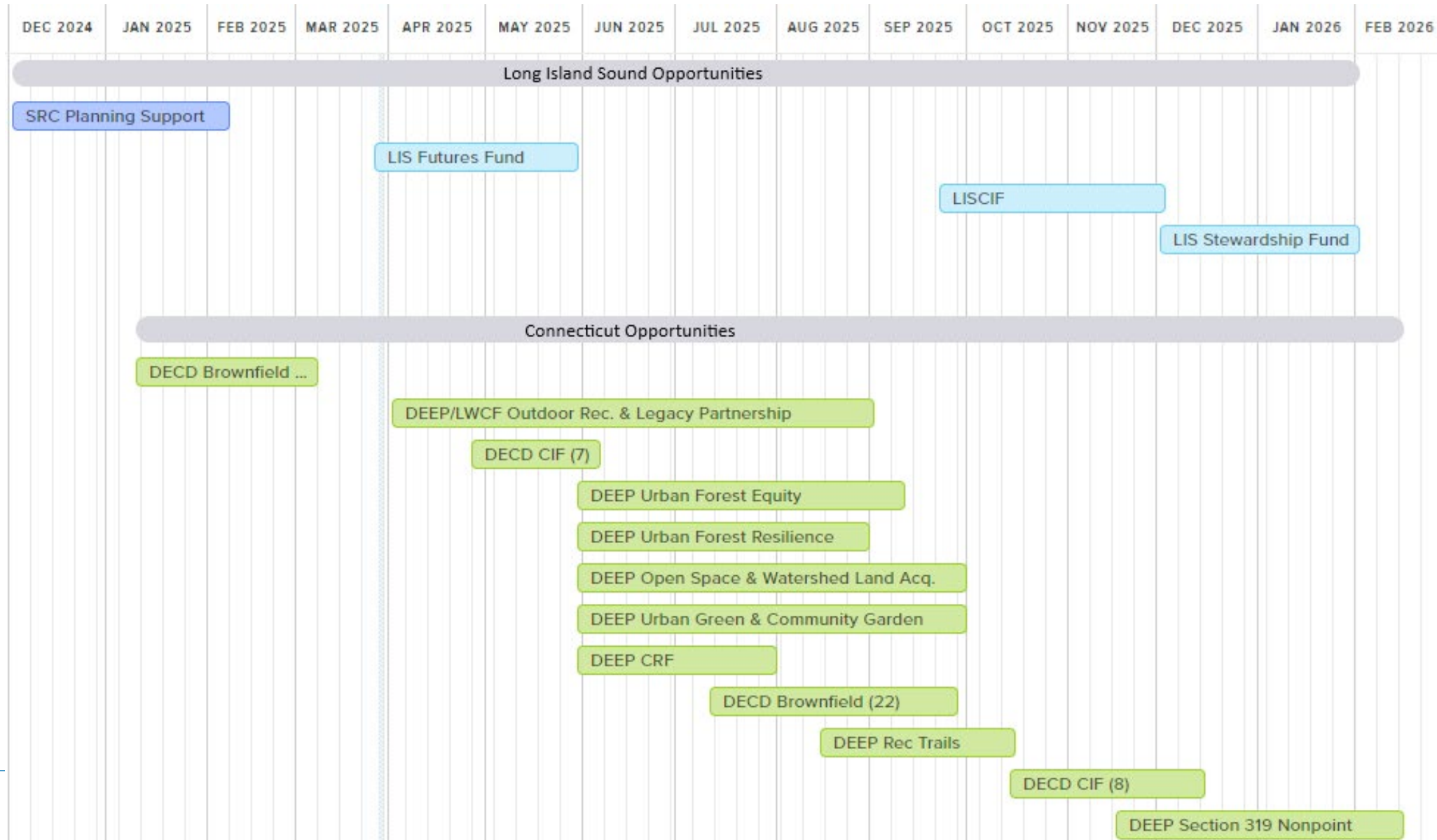
- **Who are our key partners?**

- OTG, DAS, DOT, DEEP, DPH, DECD, Munis
-

Tips for Success

- **What are some tips for success?**
 - Prioritize funding opportunities based on a strategy (NOTE: you cannot pursue everything)
 - Identify team and develop management structure to support grants
 - Evaluate potential value stacking of funding opportunities
 - Focus on community benefits and creation of quality jobs
 - Understand post-award reporting and compliance requirements
 - **What are some common mistakes to avoid?**
 - Failing to follow guidelines; ignoring eligibility requirements
 - Lacking clarity in project goals; insufficient budget details; lacking evaluation metrics; not demonstrating financial need; not allowing sufficient time or focus to write the applications; not asking for the right amount
 - Submitting incomplete or poorly organized materials
-

Funding Calendar - Connecticut





Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Successful Awardees Panel

Maggie Favretti

*Alliance for the Mystic River
Watershed*

Jessica Cañizares

The Nature Conservancy

Kelly Kerrigan

Town of Stratford





Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Lunch!

We will resume at 12:15 pm

Fenwick Living Shoreline
Credit: Sarah Schechter





Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

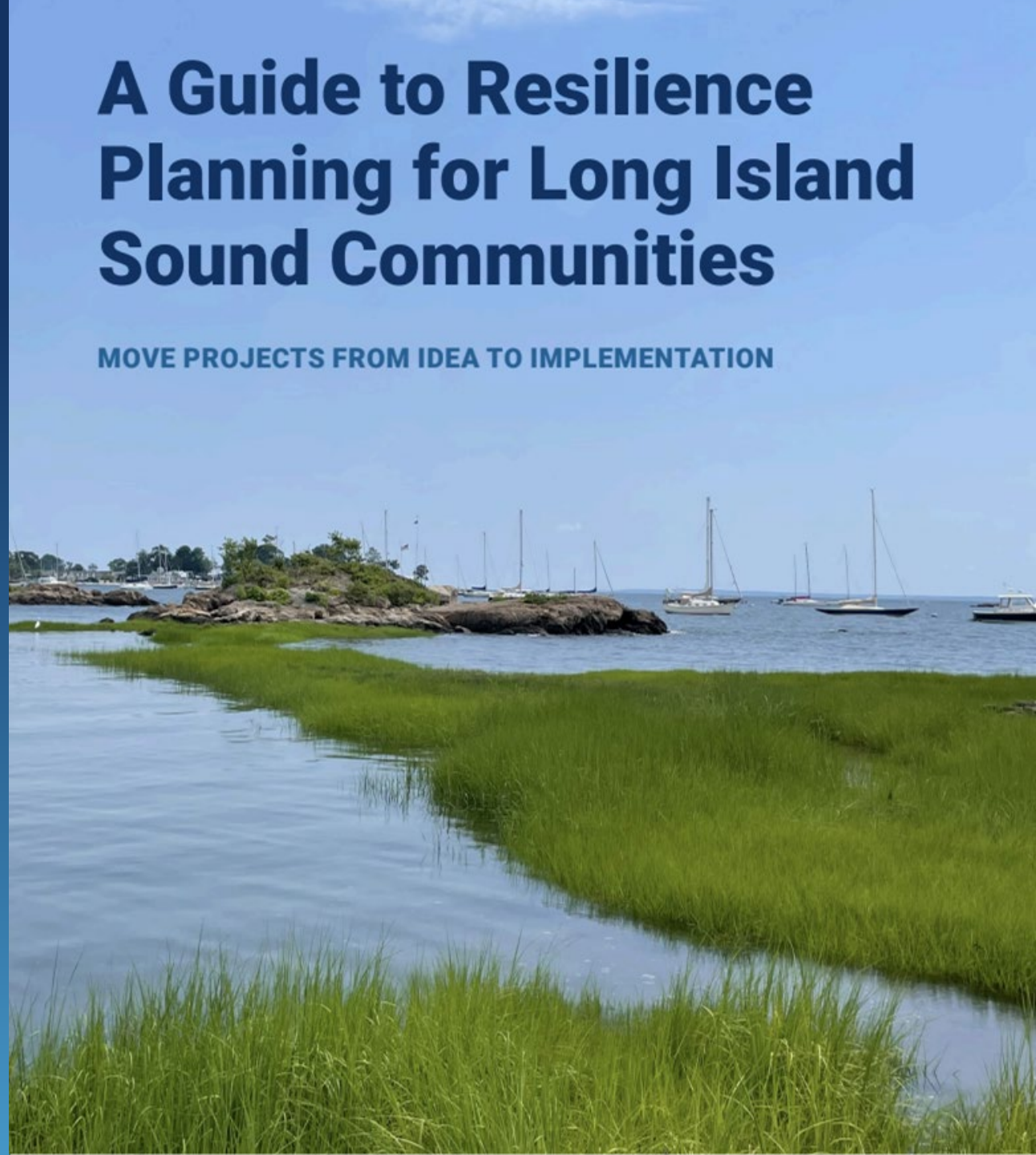


Resilience Planning Activity: PERSISTS Criteria

Adopted and adapted from CIRCA

A Guide to Resilience Planning for Long Island Sound Communities

MOVE PROJECTS FROM IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION





Resilience Planning Guide

***PERSISTS** Decision Support Criteria can help prioritize projects**

Permissible – Can get all necessary permits and/or permissions

Engaged – Considers input from and impacts to vulnerable populations

Realistic – Has community support and can be realistically achieved

Safe – Enhances or maintains the wellbeing of communities

Innovative – Process has considered innovative options including nature-based solutions

Scientific – Incorporates the best available science

Transferable – Can serve as model for other communities

Sustainable – Socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable

*Adopted and adapted from Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. (2020). [*Resilient Connecticut Planning Framework*](#).

Resilience Planning Steps & Strategies



Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Long Island Sound
Resilience Resource Hub

[Resilience Steps](#)

[Resources & Tools](#)

[Connect](#)

[Search](#)

A Guide to Resilience Planning

Use the PERSISTS criteria below to help identify, prioritize, and implement high-impact projects

PERSISTS Framework adapted and adopted from Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. (2020). Resilient Connecticut Planning Framework.

P

Permittable

E

Engaged

R

Realistic

S

Safe

I

Innovative

S

Scientific

T

Transferable

S

Sustainable



Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Roundtable Discussions

2024 Funding Workshop
Credit: J...



1

Long Island Sound

LISSEF - Tripp Killin
SRC - Deb Abibou, Sarah Schechter

5

Brownfield Development

UConn TAB - Randi Mendes

2

Federal Programs/Infrastructure

DEEP - Niles Dookie
CTBILT - Robert Hotaling

6

Capacity Needs

UConn EJ TCTAC - Andrea Berry
DEEP Stronger Together - Sarah Huang

3

Urban Forestry

DEEP UFE/UFR - Les Welker,
Danica Doroski

7

Community-Based Projects

LISCIF - Shahela Begum

4

Land, Gardens, Trails, & Recreation

DEEP RT - Kim Bradley
DEEP OSWA/UGCG/ORLP - Lindsay Suhr



Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Wrap-Up and Share Back

2024 Hamden Field Trip
Credit: Judy Benson





Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Coming up...

April 10: MyCoastCT: New London, Groton, Stonington - Pilot Webinar

April 24 and June 4: Long Island Sound Study Stewardship Strategy Public Meetings

Keep in Touch!

- Visit LISResilience.org →
- Sign up for our newsletter on the 'Connect' page!





Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Thank you

Please complete our short evaluation

