LONG ISLAND SOUND FUTURES FUND

2020 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Due Date: **Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

OVERVIEW

The Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) is seeking proposals to protect and restore the health and living resources of Long Island Sound (Sound). Approximately $3 million is expected to be available for grants in 2020. The program is managed by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Long Island Sound Study (LISS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

All proposed projects must be within the Long Island Sound watershed boundary as depicted in *Figure 1*. The eligibility of projects within portions of the watershed is further restricted by geography depending on the three types of projects, as described below.

Figure 1: Long Island Sound Watershed. LISFF geographic focus: CT, MA, NH, NY, and VT.

Habitat restoration projects and community resilience projects *must* fall within the LISS Coastal Boundary Map. This boundary includes portions of New York (NY) including: Bronx, Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Westchester Counties, and the coast of Connecticut (CT).

Water quality, education and fish passage projects may be in any portion of the Sound watershed in CT and NY as shown on the LISS National Estuary Program Map.

Nitrogen prevention or reduction planning/design and implementation projects may occur anywhere in the Sound watershed of CT, NY, Massachusetts (MA), New Hampshire (NH), and Vermont (VT) as shown on the Interactive LISS Boundary Map.

NOTE: Proposals for habitat restoration projects in the Long Island Sound watershed upper basin states of MA, NH and VT *are not* eligible under the LISFF. Organizations with such projects are encouraged to apply under NFWF's New England Forests and Rivers Fund.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The most competitive proposals will address the strategies and Implementation Actions (IAs) contained within the four themes of the 2015 Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP also identifies three principles that are important to consider in taking any specific action: resilience to climate change, long-term sustainability, and environmental justice. We welcome submissions that incorporate these cross-cutting issues into the proposal.

CCMP THEME: Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds – Improve water quality by reducing nutrients, combined sewer overflows, stormwater runoff, and point and nonpoint source loading into Long Island Sound through:

- Water quality projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention or reduction.
- Planning activities that set-the-stage for implementation of such water quality projects.

*Examples of project types and actions – **implementing or designing:***

- Green infrastructure/Low Impact Development (LID).
- Alternatives to current decentralized on-site wastewater treatment systems.
- Innovative wastewater treatment tools or strategies.
- Alternatives to chemical and nitrogen-intensive turf and landscaping fertilizer and pesticide use.
- Marine debris and trash prevention or reduction.
- Technical assistance to help local communities to build capacity to plan for or to implement green infrastructure/LID.
- Watershed planning that addresses eutrophication-related water quality problems and identifies potential projects. Take a look at the Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans.

- Watershed planning meeting the criteria for NRCS' National Water Quality Initiative and the EPA's Clean Water Act Section 319 program (A-I plan or Approved Alternative Plan). See the following: New Hampshire 319 Guidance
- Nutrient bioextraction.
- Low-cost retrofits at wastewater treatment facilities in the Sound watershed boundaries of CT, MA, NH, NY, and VT.
- Nitrogen reduction or prevention projects.
- Riparian forested buffer and channel bank vegetation enhancement to slow and intercept polluted surface runoff.
- Stream channel reconnection to historic floodplains and adjacent wetlands to promote nutrient removal.
- In-stream restoration to increase nutrient processing, and to reduce mitigate erosion.
- Replacing or right-sizing culverts or otherwise improving road and stream crossings in order to reduce downstream erosion.
- Technical assistance to engage rural landowners and farmers in design and delivery of nitrogen reduction or prevention projects.
- Projects that address upland agricultural runoff through farm-scale conservation systems and solutions. This includes efforts to reduce water quality impacts through the implementation of best management practices that reduce pollution at the farm scale. Examples:
    - Soil health practices and management systems that combine improved tillage and/or pasture management, cover crops, crop and livestock rotations, and other practices to increase soil fertility while improving the capacity of crops and soils to reduce runoff and increase nutrient uptake.
    - Precision nutrient management systems that fine-tune the rate, source, method, and timing of nutrient applications to maintain or increase crop yields, minimize nutrient input costs and nutrient losses to surface and groundwater.
    - "Whole-farm" conservation systems that reduce pollution from crop and pasture lands, animal production areas, and protect or restore high-value natural resource areas like wetlands and riparian areas and significantly improve the environmental performance of the farm while maximizing public and private financial assistance programs.

CCMP THEME: Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife – Protect and restore coastal habitats to maintain resilience and function and to support populations of fish, birds and wildlife through:

- Protecting or restoring quantifiable acres of coastal habitat restored within the 12 habitat types targeted by LISS. Review the LISS Habitat Restoration Guidelines 2017 to inform development of a proposal.
- Planning or design to set-the-stage for implementation of such projects.
- Fostering diverse, balanced and abundant populations of fish, birds and wildlife.

*Examples of project types and actions – **implementing or designing:***

- Quantifiable acres of habitat enhancement or restoration such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster reefs, coastal forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands.
- Non-structural or green/gray hybrid living shoreline restoration to manage shoreline erosion and reduce marsh loss.
- Planning for a single site or multiple priority locations that sets-the-stage for implementation of habitat restoration project(s) with quantifiable acres of habitat restored.
- Piloting innovative tools such as re-use of dredge materials coupled with shoreline softening, tidal wetland enhancement/restoration etc.
- Invasive species eradication with targeted and sustained removal and management.
- Shellfish (oysters, clams, and mussels) and reef restoration to establish self-sustaining populations; and/or to create or enhance benthic and reef structure for marine species. *Restored shellfish and reef areas cannot be harvested.*
- Fish passage to reduce barriers and increase access to high quality habitat for Long Island Sound associated fish such as alewife, blueback herring, brook trout, American eel and American shad.
- Aquatic and habitat connectivity projects such as replacing or right-sizing culverts and improving road and stream crossings in order to provide riverine migratory corridors that promote species dispersal.
- Strategies to engage human communities to share the shore and reduce disturbance along shorelines also used by beach nesting species. Strategies are described in the NFWF Atlantic Flyway Shorebirds Business Plan.

CCMP THEME Sustainable and Resilient Communities - Support vibrant, informed, and engaged communities that use, appreciate, and help protect and sustain the Sound; and sustain its ecological balance in a healthy, productive, and resilient state for the benefit of both people and the natural environment through:

- Public engagement, knowledge and stewardship.
- Coastal projects that enhance community resilience and sustainability.
- Planning and design that set-the-stage for implementation of resilience projects.

Examples of project types and actions:

Public Engagement, Knowledge and Stewardship – *implementing or designing:*

- Public engagement in stewardship of local natural resources.
- Programs to increase appreciation of the Sound in underprivileged and non- traditional urban communities.
- Campaigns to build public awareness aimed at preventing plastic waste, marine debris and litter into waterways.
- Natural landscaping guidance and training.
- Programs to foster adoption of water quality improvements in residential, commercial and institutional settings.

- Long Island Sound environmental and conservation-related instruction in classrooms. *LISFF does not support the development of new curriculum.*
- Festivals, celebrations and events in natural resource-based, and/or science education locations to develop awareness of the Sound.
- Sustainable behavior education and outreach including community based social marketing campaigns.
- Sustainable use of natural coastal areas, including Long Island Sound Stewardship Areas.
- Plans to increase public access points and the length of shoreline accessible by the public to the Sound and its rivers.
- *Public engagement, education and stewardship projects providing a hands-on conservation experience are highly desired.*

Coastal Resilience & Sustainability – *implementing or designing:*

- Natural or green/gray hybrid coastal resilience infrastructure (beneficial use of suitable materials to restore tidal marsh, living shorelines etc.) particularly in vulnerable communities that tend to be disproportionally impacted by stressors.
- New or updated municipal, watershed or regional coastal resilience/sustainability/natural hazard mitigation plans that evaluate the vulnerability of infrastructure, riparian and coastal areas and develop strategies for making these features and infrastructure more resilient to hazardous events (sea level rise and/or weather events).
- Technical assistance to help local communities to build capacity to plan for or to implement resilience through nature-based infrastructure.

CCMP THEME Sound Science and Inclusive Management – Manage the Sound using science that is inclusive, adaptive, innovative and accountable through:

- Citizen science.
- Data management and integration.

*Examples of project types and actions – **delivering or designing:***

- Water quality monitoring to improve identification and source tracking in embayments, harbors, and near-shore areas. Monitoring must: 1) be related to the nature of local impairment designated under the Clean Water Act, Section 305(b) in Connecticut and New York; 2) describe in specific terms how and what entity will use the data collected to address local use impairments (e.g., help local government detect illicit discharges); 3) describe how the project will manage data so it is accessible to citizens and resource managers; and 4) include data input into the Water Quality Exchange.
- Shared tools and/or strategies to help citizen science monitors improve their data storage, management and visualization capabilities at a local and regional scale.
- Improve regional identification, storage, management, and sharing of spatial and temporal data.

PROJECT METRICS

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure greater consistency of project data provided by multiple grants, the LISFF has a list of metrics titled "Activities and Outcomes" in the Easygrants online application. Applicants should *only* select the most relevant metrics from their project (all possible project metrics for this program are shown on the table below). If you think an applicable metric has not been provided, please contact Erin Lewis to discuss alternatives.

Project Activity	Recommended Metric	Additional Guidance
Educate the public or stakeholders	# of people targeted	Provide # of people. In NOTES section: describe the type of participant e.g., general public, farmer, students, teachers etc.
Educate the public or stakeholders	# of people demonstrating a minimum level of knowledge, attitudes or skills	Provide # of people targeted that are demonstrating a minimum level of knowledge, attitude, or skill. In NOTES section: describe specific method to document improvement in knowledge, attitudes or skills e.g., signed pledge, increase in knowledge based on pre and post testing after information about topic provided etc. *If you are not able to measure and document results do not use this metric*.
Educate government entities and managers	# of government entities participating	Provide # of agencies. In NOTES section: describe specific government entities participating e.g., Fairfield County, Town of Brookhaven and their roles in the project.
Educate the public	# of workshops, webinars, meetings	Enter the # of workshops, webinars, meetings held. In NOTES section: provide a short description of the type/content of event.
Educate the public	# educational signs	Enter the number of education signs installed by the project. In NOTES section: provide a short description of the content of the sign(s).
Engage volunteers	# of volunteers participating	Enter the number of volunteers participating in the project. In NOTES section: provide a short description of the type of volunteer and the type of volunteer engagement.

Approach to nutrient prevention or reduction remove impervious surface	Square foot of impervious surface removed or retrofitted	Enter the square foot of impervious surface removed or retrofitted. In NOTES section: describe the type of impervious surface removed.
Approach to nutrient prevention or reduction -install Green Infrastructure	Square foot of green infrastructure installed	Enter the square footage of green infrastructure installed. In NOTES section: describe the type of green infrastructure installed. (e.g. rain gardens, bioswales, pervious pavement, bioretention basins, etc)
Approach to nutrient prevention or reduction	Volume of stormwater prevented or reduced from entering the waterway annually	Enter volume (gallons) of stormwater prevented or reduced from entering the waterway annually. In NOTES section: describe the type of practice implemented e.g., riparian restoration, green roof, bioswale, raingarden, rainbarrel etc. *Apply a calculator tool to establish the stormwater volume prevention or reduction. Examples of calculators include:* EPA National Stormwater Calculator **or** the National Stormwater Management Calculator **or** Other Green Infrastructure Modeling Tools**.**
Approach to nutrient prevention or reduction -- riparian restoration, bioswale, soil health system, streambank or in-stream restoration, culvert/stream crossing improvement, WWTP retrofits	Lbs. of nutrients prevented or reduced from entering the waterway annually	Enter the lbs. of nutrients prevented or reduced from entering the waterway annually. In NOTES section: describe the type of practice implemented e.g., riparian restoration, bioswale, soil health system, streambank or in-stream restoration, culvert/stream crossing improvement, WWTP retrofit etc. **Applicants must establish nutrient load prevented or reduced.** Consider using the Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads to establish nutrient reduction. Other calculators or calculations are also acceptable. Provide the source of the tool if another calculator is used.
Approach to sediment prevention or reduction	Lbs. of sediment reduced or prevented from entering the waterway annually	Enter the lbs. of sediment reduced or prevented from entering the waterway annually. In NOTES section: describe the method to be used to prevent or reduce

		sediment (right sizing culverts etc.) and to calculate prevention or reduction. Consider using the Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads to establish sediment reduction. Other calculators or calculations are also acceptable. Provide the source of the tool if another calculator is used.
Preventing or reducing litter, floatables and marine debris	Lbs. of floatable pollution reduced or prevented from entering the waterway annually	Enter the weight in lbs. of floatable debris prevented or removed from entering or removed from waterway.
Species conservation	# of acres with Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce or mitigate recreational disturbance to wildlife	Enter the number of acres managed to reduce or mitigate recreational disturbance to wildlife. In NOTES section: describe actions to be implemented to reduce disturbance and list species.
Restoring the Important Coastal Habitat of Long Island Sound	Acres of coastal habitat restored	Enter # acres restored. In NOTES section: **describe the specific type of habitat to be restored from this list:** Beaches & Dunes; Cliffs & Bluffs, Estuarine Embayments, Coastal Island Forests, Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Grasslands, Intertidal Flats, Rocky Intertidal Zones, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (eelgrass, Shellfish Reefs, Tidal Wetlands, Riparian, Lake/Pond Habitat.
Habitat restoration/species conservation	Acres managed to treat invasive plants	Enter # of Acres managed to treat annual invasive plants. In NOTES section: provide examples of invasives to be addressed.
Fish passage, remove dams/remove or resize culverts, improve road/stream crossings:	# of fish passage barriers rectified	Enter # of barriers to rectified. In NOTES section: describe type of barrier removed, resized, improved and fish species benefited.
Barrier removal to restore aquatic connectivity	Miles of river or stream opened	Enter # of miles restored. In NOTES section: enter miles of riverine migratory corridor opened (streams, creeks, rivers) and fish species benefited.
Create or enhance plan such as a watershed plan, coastal resilience/sustainability/natural	# of plans developed	Enter # of plans developed. In NOTES section: describe the plan being prepared. e.g., Nine Element Watershed

hazard mitigation plan or project-level plan		Plan, Hazard Mitigation/Coastal Resilience Plan, Site restoration or water quality improvement plan **OR ONE** specific type of plan to be developed: 1) Preliminary Community Engagement, Planning and Prioritization; 2) Project Preliminary Design and Site Assessment; 3) Project Final Design/Permitting; 4) Implementation.
Monitoring/inclusive management	# monitoring programs established or underway	Enter the number of monitoring programs established or underway. In NOTES section: describe the type of monitoring conducted e.g., parameter(s).
Monitoring/inclusive management	# studies completed with findings reported to management	Enter the number of studies completed with findings reported to Long Island Sound managers and stakeholders. In NOTES section: describe Sound–based entities who will use the studies and how the information will be used to inform management of Long Island Sound or support the activities of key stakeholders such as citizen scientists.

Figure 2: Project Metrics

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible and Ineligible Entities

- Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local government, municipal government, Indian tribes, and educational institutions.
- Ineligible applicants include U.S. Federal government agencies, businesses, and unincorporated individuals.

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- Funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, and mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts.
- Funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- Research projects. Consider the LISS Research Grant Program.
- Development of new educational curriculum.
- Support for fellowships and/or tuition support or reimbursement.

- Marketing efforts serving to generally promote the applicant organization and its initiatives.
- Funding for lunches or snacks, t-shirts and promotional items (e.g., key chains, coffee mugs, pens etc.).
- Stand-alone signs.
- Stand-alone public access projects such as creation of boat launches, fishing piers, public viewing areas, waterfront trails, walkways, and/or fencing are not eligible. Signs and public access may be part of a larger project proposal.
- Support for the same project for more than three consecutive years.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND MATCH

Approximately $3 million is expected to be available. There are four different funding categories, each with a different level of support available.

- **Highest Impact Projects:** Up to $500,000 awarded to support the highest-impact projects. These are defined as projects that help address the challenges and solutions described in the CCMP Themes and the project has a particularly high environmental benefit relative to cost including:
    - Large-scale and/or complex water quality improvement, habitat restoration, and coastal resilience projects.
    - Projects with the greatest promise to demonstrate, influence, pilot, innovate, and/or provide a proof of concept with the aim of accelerating local and regional water quality improvements, natural resource restoration, coastal resilience, and community and public outreach and engagement.

This is the most competitive category of funding with a very limited number of grants anticipated. Please see the "Evaluation Factors for Highest Impact Projects" below to better understand what will make for a more competitive proposal.

- **Implementation Projects:** Ranging in value from $20,000 to $300,000 awarded to support projects that will result in quantifiable pollution reduction or increases in habitat restored.
- **Design/Planning Projects:** Ranging in value from $20,000 to $200,000 awarded to support the costs associated with design/planning for:
    - Water quality or habitat restoration projects.
    - Watershed plans to mitigate eutrophication-related impairments.
    - Sustainable behavior education and outreach including community based social marketing campaigns.
    - Coastal resiliency/sustainability/natural hazard mitigation plans.

Applicants for Implementation and Design/Planning grants should apply under **ONE** of the project type (see Figure 3 below for project types) that best meets their needs. Each of the boxes shown below is understood to represent a **distinct** phase of project development or delivery. **Projects requesting funding under multiple project types** *such as* Preliminary Community Engagement, Planning and Prioritization and Site Assessment and Preliminary Design; or Final Design and Secure Permits and Implementation (design and build) **will NOT be considered for**

funding. Successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with any Federal, state or local requirements. *NFWF strongly encourages applicants for design grants to conduct a pre-application meeting with relevant agencies prior to submitting proposals.*

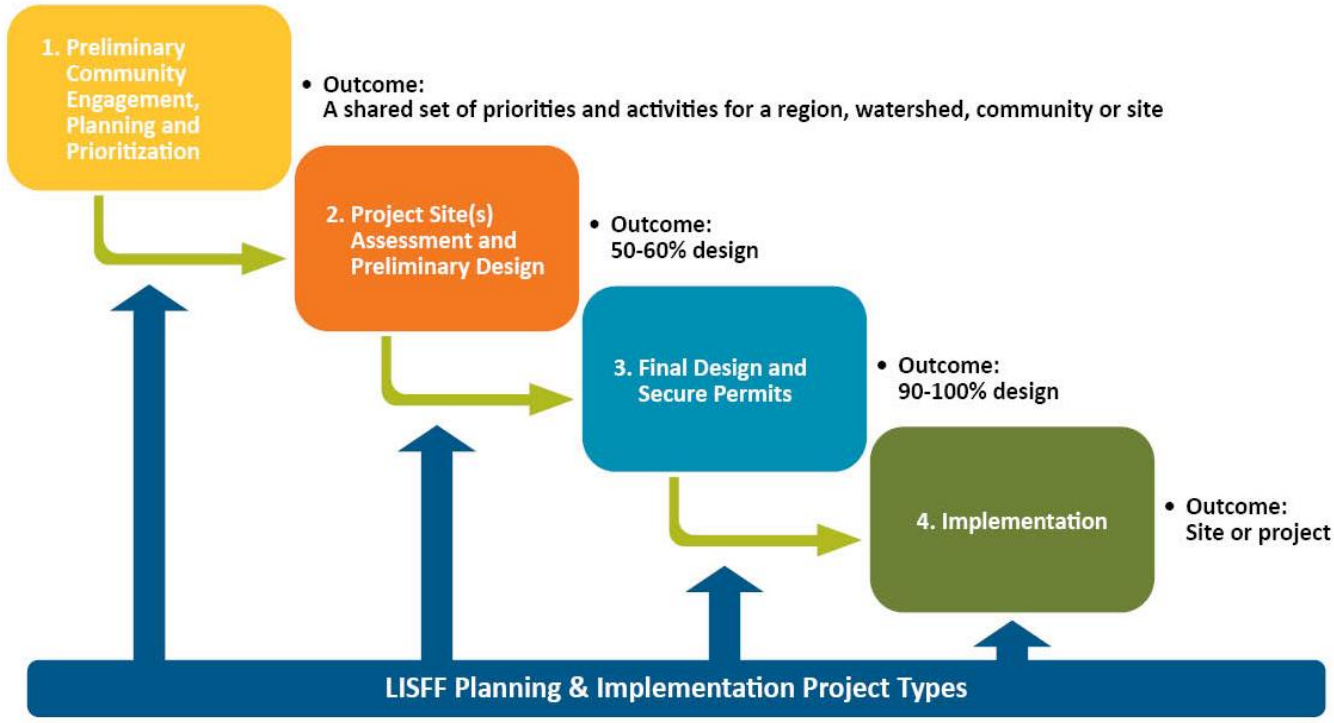

Figure 3: LISFF Planning and Implementation Project Types

- **Citizen Science/Water Quality Monitoring:** Ranging in value from $20,000 to $75,000 for water quality monitoring.
- **Education and Public Participation Grants:** Ranging in value from $5,000 to $75,000 awarded to hands-on, visible public participation and education projects.

Project Period: Projects must start within six months and be completed within 12 to 18 months after notification of grant award. High Impact Projects must start within six months and be completed within 24 months after notification of grant award. Notification of award is projected to be October/November 2020. **Project start dates cannot start before October 1, 2020.**

Match Requirements: The ratio of matching contributions offered is considered during the review process, and applicants must contribute non-federal matching cash funds and/or in-kind services valued at a minimum of 50 percent of the total project budget. For example, if the "total project costs" are $100,000 and the required match would be $50,000. Preference will be given to projects that exceed the minimum match requirement, as described in the "Evaluation Criteria" section of this RFP.

Matching contributions may include cash, in-kind contributions of staff and volunteer time, work performed, materials and services donated, or other tangible contributions to the project objectives and outcomes.

Eligible indirect costs (that would not be paid with requested grant funding) may be applied as match. Please review the NFWF: 1) Indirect Cost Policy for Applicants for specific information about requesting indirect costs; and 2) for information about using indirect costs as match, review Section E of Frequently Asked Questions on the NFWF website.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

- **Program Goals and Priorities** - Project addresses one or more of the of the LISFF program priorities outlined in this Request for Proposal. The project has performance metrics to evaluate project success. Criteria for "Highest Impact Projects" - project has a particularly high (quantifiable) environmental benefit relative to the cost.
- **Technical Merit** - The project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate experts in project planning, design or implementation to ensure activities are technically sound and feasible.
- **Budget** - Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's Budget Instructions cost categories. Federally-funded projects which include grants funded by LISFF must be in compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance as applicable.
- **Cost-Effectiveness** - Project includes a cost-effective budget that balances performance risk and efficient use of funds. Cost-effectiveness may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of either or both direct and indirect costs in the proposed budget. The federal government has determined that a *de minimis* 10% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for all organizations without a Negotiated Indirect Rate Agreement, as such, NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize all proposals with indirect rates above 10% for cost effectiveness.
- **Qualifications** - The applicant, organization, and partner experience is relevant to delivery of the project, and/or entity has a proven track record of success.
- **Match** – Matching contributions will be evaluated by comparing total funding request to the LISFF and the dollar value (in-kind or cash) of the match being provided by the applicant. *Projects that meet or exceed a 1:1 match ratio will be more competitive.*
- **Communication** – Project includes a detailed plan to communicate information about the project to appropriate audiences.

Highest Impact Proposals will be evaluated based upon the criteria above. These proposals are also evaluated using the following criteria:

- **Transferability** - Project has potential transfer to transfer lessons learned to other communities and/or to be integrated into government programs and policies.

- **Long-term Sustainability** – Project will be maintained to ensure benefits are achieved and sustained over time.
- **Partnership** – An appropriate partnership exists to implement the project and sustain it after the life of the grant.

OTHER

Budget – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's Budget Instructions cost categories. Federally-funded projects must be in compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance as applicable.

Matching Contributions – Matching contributions consist of cash, contributed goods and services, volunteer hours (Valuing Volunteer Time), and/or property raised and spent for the project during the period of performance. Larger match ratios are encouraged and will be more competitive during application review.

Procurement – If the applicant chooses to specifically identify proposed Contractor(s) for Services, an award by NFWF to the applicant **does not** constitute NFWF's express written authorization for the applicant to procure such specific services noncompetitively. When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support – Award recipients will be required to grant NFWF and the Long Island Sound Study the right and authority to publicize the project and NFWF and LISS financial support for the grant in press releases, publications and other public communications. Recipients may also be asked by NFWF to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project.

Receiving Award Funds – Award payments are primarily reimbursable. Projects may request funds for reimbursement at any time after completing a signed agreement with NFWF. A request of an advance of funds must be due to an imminent need of expenditure and must detail how the funds will be used and provide justification and a timeline for expected disbursement of these funds.

Compliance Requirements – Projects selected may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (state and Federal), and National Historic Preservation Act. Documentation of compliance with these regulations must be approved prior to initiating activities that disturb or alter habitat or other features of the project site(s). Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task. As may be applicable, successful applicants may be required to comply with additional Federal, state or local requirements and obtain all necessary permits and clearances.

Quality Assurance - If a project involves data collection or data use grantees will be asked to prepare and submit quality assurance (QA) documentation. For more information, follow the link to EPA QA and LISFF Quality Assurance Project Plan Guidance. Examples of data collection or

use which requires a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP):

- New data collection.
- Existing data use (a new use for data collected for a different purpose, whether by the same or different groups).
- Data collection and analysis associated with development or design of plans and projects e.g. fish passage, watershed or water quality/habitat restoration project plans etc.
- Water or other environmental media monitoring.
- Model development or use etc.

No data collection or use may begin until a QAPP is approved by EPA. Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task.The time for QAPP review by NFWF and EPA is approximately 30 to 60 days. Please be aware that the 30 to 60 days is not the QAPP approval time frame but the estimated time for the first quality assurance review. Plan to submit at least QAPPs three months in advance of data collection and analysis to allow for any needed comments and revisions to be made before final QAPP approval. If funded by the LISFF, general assistance will be available to projects to help with scoping and review of the draft QAPPs advance of submission to EPA. Please contact Erin Lewis if you have any questions about whether your project would require a QAPP.

Permits – Successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with any Federal, state or local requirements. Where projects involve work in the waters of the United States, NFWF strongly encourages applicants to conduct a permit pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers prior to submitting their proposal. In some cases, if a permit pre-application meeting has not been completed, NFWF may require successful applicants to complete such a meeting prior to grant award.

Federal Funding – The availability of federal funds estimated in this solicitation is contingent upon the federal appropriations process. Funding decisions will be made based on level of funding and timing of when it is received by NFWF.

TIMELINE

Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

Applicant Webinar (NY/CT applicants) – register here	4/7/2020, 2:00pm – 3:30pm, EST
Applicant Webinar (MA, NH, VT applicants) – register here	4/8/2020, 10:00 – 11:30am, EST
Full Proposal Due Date	6/2/2020, 11:59pm, EST
Review Period	Summer 2020
Awards Announced	November 2020

HOW TO APPLY

All application materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Easygrants system.

1. Go to easygrants.nfwf.org to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information. Please disable the pop-up blocker on your internet browser prior to beginning the application process.

2. Once on your homepage, click the "Apply for Funding" button and select this RFP's "Funding Opportunity" from the list of options.

3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to at a later time for completion and submission.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A *Tip Sheet* is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded here.

Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website's Applicant Information page.

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact:
Erin Lewis
Coordinator, Northeastern Region
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
(202)857-0166

For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:
Easygrants Helpdesk
Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org
Voicemail: 202-595-2497
Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.
Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.