AQUATIC CONNECTIVITY 2025

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program

Apply for funding to improve New York State's aquatic habitat connectivity at road/stream crossings or dams. Municipalities (including Indian Nations), soil and water conservation districts, and non-profit organizations can receive state money for projects that address aquatic connectivity at road/stream crossings or dams and may promote flood risk reduction and enhanced flood and climate resiliency.

Program Overview

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Municipalities (*ECL §56-0101*)
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Not-for-profit organizations

The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program is a competitive, statewide, reimbursement New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) grant program. One project type offered through WQIP is for Aquatic Connectivity. This project type provides funding for projects that will, as their primary goal, restore and/or enhance aquatic habitat connectivity by directly addressing culverts, bridges, and dams causing a barrier to aquatic organisms. Projects will improve or maintain aquatic connectivity by upgrading and replacing culverts and bridges to increase ecological connectivity and hydraulic capacity, or by removing stream barriers such as dams or weirs that limit aquatic connectivity or contribute to flooding. Projects may also prevent the loss of aquatic connectivity by replacing stream crossings in poor condition with right-sized structures. By upgrading stream crossing structures to ideal sizes and by removing dams, projects can help reconnect aquatic ecosystems and reduce flood risks.

- **Maximum award amount:** $2,000,000 per project
- **Eligible project costs:** salary and fringe benefits; contractual costs; travel; equipment/materials; planning, design, administrative, and construction oversight costs (not to exceed 20% of award amount); construction inspection; monitoring (not to exceed 20% of award amount); reconstruction, revitalization, and rejuvenation activities.

For full grant details view the WQIP Program Overview at https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/wqip-program or scan the QR Code:

Why Should You Apply?

- Your project site is a culvert, bridge or dam that is obstructing aquatic connectivity or is a culvert in poor condition
- Your project will result in the "right-sizing" of a stream crossing structure or the removal of a barrier to improve stream continuity
- Your project (culvert/bridge replacement or barrier removal) will be completed within five years

How to Apply

- Review the WQIP Round 21 Program Overview
- WQIP is part of the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). To apply, visit https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/cfa.

KEY POINTS

- $2,000,000 maximum award amount
- Match requirement: 25% of award amount

CONTACT INFORMATION

Caroline Dule
Aquatic Habitat Protection Section, Division of Fish and Wildlife

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-3507
P: (518) 408-4132 | caroline.dule@dec.ny.gov
www.dec.ny.gov