GUIDELINES AND BID INSTRUCTIONS

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
Hudson River Estuary Management Program

Round 50
2026 Hudson River Estuary Grants
For
Tributary Restoration and Resiliency

NYS Grants Management Bid Event ID:
HRE50-2026

Apply through the SFS Vendor Portal

Webinar Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026, 10:00-11:30 AM
https://meetny-gov.webex.com/weblink/register/rc1316ce407c2435fe7db03f903b1e5f4

Bid Due Date: (3:00 P.M. EST, DATE December 17, 2026)

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Introduction

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is pleased to announce funding for projects that implement priorities of the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda to conserve, restore and revitalize the estuary and its ecosystem.

Applications, now known as Bids must be submitted through the State Financial System (SFS) Grants Management System (https://esupplier.sfs.ny.gov/). Paper bids will NOT be accepted. Bidders are strongly encouraged to submit their bid prior to the bid deadline. Late bids will not be accepted.

Grant bid information is also available on the Department's website at https://www.dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/hudson-river-estuary-program/grants-funding-opportunities.

Timetable of Key Events

Event:	Date:
Bid Period Begins	September 23, 2026
Webinar	October 8, 2026; 10:00 a.m. ET
Question & Answer Period Ends	December 10, 2026
Bid Due	December 17, 2026; 3:00 p.m. ET
Award(s) Announced By (anticipated)	Approximately June 2027

Bidder Eligibility

For the purposes of this grant program, the following entities are considered eligible bidders: 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations, Governmental Entities, Municipalities, and Quasi-Governmental Entities, including but not limited to Counties, Cities, Towns, Villages, or Indian nation or tribe recognized by the state or the United States with a reservation wholly or partly within the boundaries of New York State, or any combination thereof, Public Benefit Corporations, Public Authorities, Municipal Corporations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, School Districts, and Universities and Colleges whose projects are located within the eligible geographic boundaries defined in this RFA.

For this grant opportunity, a "Not-For-Profit Corporation" (NFP) is subject to New York State's Not-For-Profit Corporation Law and is qualified for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, has filed a Certificate of Incorporation to be incorporated in New York State and is current in their charities reporting requirements with the Office of the Attorney General.

Individuals and unincorporated groups are not eligible for this grant opportunity. However, an eligible bidder may apply on behalf of an individual or unincorporated group as a fiscal sponsor. The fiscal sponsor accepts responsibility of the grant and serves as a fiscal conduit for a DEC-funded project, receiving and disbursing funds related to the grant, and administering the requirements throughout the DEC grant process, including final reporting of grant activity.

For Multi-Partner and Inter-Municipal Projects: If a proposed project involves a cooperative agreement or partners, only one eligible, designated lead bidder must submit the bid for grant funding. The lead bidder must assume the responsibility for the project bid, performance of work consistent with this RFA, and the New York State Contract for Grants. Letters substantiating the collaboration from each partner are required.

Grant Opportunity General Information and Conditions

1. Funding
Approximately $400,000 is available from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.

2. Proposed Project Timeframes
All projects must have defined objectives, tasks, and deliverables accounted for in performance measures that can be completed and invoiced within a three-year contract period/term of September 1, 2027 through August 31, 2030. Bidders should not begin their projects or incur costs until a New York State Contract for Grants has been fully approved by DEC, and if applicable approved by the Attorney General and the State Comptroller. Time extensions beyond the contract term end date will be determined by the DEC based upon written justification from the Grantee. Bidders should not submit a Bid if they do not anticipate their project can be completed within the specified contract term.

3. Minimum and Maximum Award Amounts
The minimum grant amount is $10,500. The maximum grant amount is $200,000.

4. Bid Limit/Award limit
Bidders may submit up to two (2) Bids. Multiple bids may not be for the same project or project location.

5. Eligible Project Locations
Eligible projects for grant funding must be located within defined geographic boundaries of the Hudson River Estuary watershed (see map in Appendix I). “Hudson River Estuary” refers to the legislatively designated Hudson River Estuarine District established in Environmental Conservation Law §11-0306, which extends from the Troy dam to the Verrazano Narrows and includes Upper New York Bay to Kill Van Kull and the East River to Hell Gate, focused on the tributaries that flow into any of these waters. The map of eligible boundaries may also be viewed at https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/hregrantmap.pdf. To find out if a potential project is located within these boundaries, please type the location of the project into the Hudson River Estuary Grant Program Interactive Boundary Map on the NYS GIS Clearinghouse at https://data.gis.ny.gov/maps/385d9cc6311946ac84425734327f6f6a. The Hudson River Estuary Grant Program Boundaries are also available on the interactive Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper at https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/hvnrm/.

6. Match Requirement and Expenditures
Match is the portion of project expenditures not paid for with grant funds. Match can be from local and/or in-kind contributions. Local sources can include funding from other non-state and/or non-federal grant sources or from project partners. In-Kind contributions are non-cash donations provided by non-state and/or non-federal third parties, which can include equipment, supplies, services, and other expendable property. Matching share contributions must support the objectives outlined in the work plan.

For this grant opportunity, Bidders must match at least 10% of the grant funding amount. Bidders providing 15% match or more will receive additional points in the scoring.

Eligible sources of match funds cannot come from other New York State or federal funding sources. Bidders will be required to provide the sources of all matching funds using the Match Worksheet in SFS Grants Management.

7. New for this Grant Round
- Minimum required match has been updated to 10% of the grant funding amount. Bidders providing 15% match or more will receive additional points in the scoring.

- Revisions were made to the eligible project types. Review descriptions of project types carefully.
- A Bid Application Form was developed to help address formatting challenges and simplify writing the Bid. Some questions that were previously published directly in the electronic SFS Application Form are now asked in the Bid Application Form. The Bid Application Form template is available in SFS to download and complete, and is also published in this RFA for reference as Appendix XIII.
- Revisions were made to scoring. Review Appendix III to understand how bids will be evaluated.
- Appendix IV: Reporting on Measures of Success is updated to reflect the *Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2026-2030.*

8. Inquiries & Designated Contact Information:

For general information on completing this bid and for clarification of bid requirements, contractual terms and procedures, contact: Susan Pepe, Hudson River Estuary Program Grants Coordinator; HREPgrants@dec.ny.gov.

For technical information regarding the Grants Management Bid Event, direct questions to: NYS SFS Grants Management, helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov or 518-457-7737; 877-737-4185 (toll-free).

Include **2026 Round 50 Tributary RFA** in the **subject line** of the email. Questions regarding this grant opportunity will be accepted by the DEC until **C.O.B. December 10, 2026**. All questions, and answers, will be uploaded in the Grants Management System Bid Event for all Bidders to view.

9. Department of Environmental Conservation Oversight

The Department of Environmental Conservation reserves the right to:

- Award additional and available funding for scored and ranked projects consistent with this grant opportunity;
- Partially fund a bid if the partially-funded portion can be demonstrated to meet the criteria for this RFA;
- Award an agreement for any or all parts of the RFA in accordance with the method of award or withdrawal of the RFA at any time at the Department's sole discretion.
- Reject any or all bids in response to the RFA at the agency's sole discretion.
- Reduce an award from the amount requested in the bid, so long as the reduced funding does not jeopardize the viability of the project to proceed at the reduced funding level.
- Limit all or some funding for a project in the final scored ranked list if the same activities have been awarded funding by another funding source.
- Reduce an award from the amount requested in the bid, should the project budget contain costs considered ineligible under this grant program.
- Refuse to fund projects that are determined to be inconsistent with NYS's Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act.
- Refuse to fund projects that are determined to be inconsistent with the Climate Change Leadership and Community Protection Act or its' implementing regulations.
- Award an agreement for any or all parts of the RFA in accordance with the method of award, or withdraw the RFA at any time, at DEC's sole discretion.
- Award to the next highest scoring bid in the event a grantee fails to execute a grant contract with DEC within 60 days of a grant award.
- Deny a change in workplan tasks from the application project description because of fairness to competitive process.
- Monitor the progress of all grant awards and withdraw grant funding, if the grantee fails to make significant and timely progress on the project or fails to receive the necessary permissions and permits for the project.

10. Bid Submission:
Bids must be submitted through the NYS SFS Grants Management System. Using **Google Chrome** to access the SFS Grants Management System (GM) is recommended. Using other browsers may cause errors.

If you do not have access to the SFS Vendor Portal and if your organization is already established within the SFS Vendor portal, an SFS Delegated Administrator has been authorized within your organization to provision user login credentials, unlock accounts, or reset passwords. Please reach out to your SFS Delegated Administrator directly. Also, if you do not have a login and if you are new to the SFS Vendor portal, and would like to establish an account for the purposes of doing business with the State of New York, contact the SFS Help Desk at 518-457-7717, 855-233-8363 or HelpDesk@sfs.ny.gov for more information.

Paper bids will NOT be accepted. Bidders are strongly encouraged to submit their bids prior to the bid deadline. Late bids will not be accepted. Please note staff with a Bid Response Initiator role can begin a bid, but only staff with the Bid Response Submitter role can submit the bid response.

All Bidders must be Registered with SFS Grants Management to apply. Please visit https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/transition-SFS to register.

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY IN BEGINNING AND COMPLETING THE PREQUALIFICATION PROCESS. PLEASE VISIT THE GRANTS MANAGEMENT Prequalification Page TO GET STARTED.

THE STATE RESERVES 5 DAYS TO REVIEW SUBMITTED PREQUALIFICATION BIDS. PREQUALIFICATION BIDS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE FOR REVIEW LESS THAN 5 DAYS PRIOR TO THIS BID DUE DATE MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED.

BIDDERS SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THEIR PREQUALIFICATION INFORMATION WILL BE REVIEWED IF THEY DO NOT ADHERE TO THIS TIMEFRAME.

a) Bidder Prequalification
Pursuant to the New York State Division of Budget Bulletin H-1032 Revised, effective July 16, 2014, New York State instituted key reform initiatives to the grant contract. Information on these initiatives can be found on the Grants Management Website.

All Bidders must be Prequalified in the SFS Grants Management System at the time and date that the bid is due. Bids from non-prequalified entities will be rejected. The system will not allow you to submit your bid.

The SFS Handbook: SFS Training for Vendors guide is available on SFS Coach and includes guidance for prequalification. Additional training is available on SFS Coach.

Grant Bid Requirements and Conditions

1. Project Objectives

This Hudson River Estuary Program RFA for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency seeks to assist Hudson Valley municipalities and organizations to become partners in implementing the *Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2026-2030* goal for "Healthy Tributaries," and to help achieve the measures of success related to restoring aquatic connectivity and free-flowing tributaries:

- HT2: Ten municipalities or watersheds will have new or updated road-stream crossing management plans, riparian assessment plans, or dam removal reconnaissance and feasibility plans that include priority actions.
- HT4: Twenty miles of stream will be restored through at least 10 projects that reconnect habitat and improve stream integrity through dam removal and culvert replacement.

Projects that restore habitat for river herring or American eel are a priority. Visit (https://www.dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/hudson-river-estuary-program/action-agenda) for an overview of the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda and Measures of Success. *Action Agenda* Measures of Success, by goal, can be found in Appendix IV of this RFA.

2. Definitions

- An "artificial barrier" is a dam, road-stream crossing (culvert or bridge), or instream structure (e.g., exposed sewer line or other legacy hydrologic modification) that impedes the movement or migration of fish or other aquatic organisms. A naturally occurring waterfall is not considered to be an artificial barrier, although a dam on top of a natural barrier might still be worthy of removal to meet goals of this RFA.
- "Dam removal" means complete removal/elimination of a dam, or other similar artificial barrier (e.g., utility or sewer crossing), removing from the top of the structure down to the original stream bottom. Although full removal is preferred, partial removal is acceptable, as long as the resulting configuration has the same conveyance as the natural stream channel and reconnects upstream and downstream stream habitat.

3. Minimum Eligibility (Pass/Fail criteria)

- The Bidder must be eligible, as shown on page 4 of this RFA. A not-for-profit organization must also be prequalified in SFS Grants Management by the bid due date to be determined eligible under this grant opportunity.
- Location: The project must be located within the defined geographic boundaries of this RFA (see maps in Appendix I). The bidder must provide GPS coordinates of the subject barrier(s), and a map and photos of the current location and condition of the site, uploaded to SFS Grants Management.
- Floodplain projects: If the project is wholly or partially in a 0.2% (500 year) or 1% (100 year) annual chance of occurrence floodplain, attach the applicable floodplain map with the location of the project indicated. Instructions for floodplain location determination: https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/floodplainmapinstructions.pdf and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZne-tThzYI
- Projects must implement one of the eligible project types identified in this RFA.
- Projects must include consultation with Estuary Program Staff for project management purposes as step one in the timeline (e.g. a project kick-off meeting). Additionally, Bidders are strongly encouraged, but are not required, to invite Estuary Program staff to attend partner or community engagement meetings and to provide technical assistance in the planning process.
- The uploaded project timeline indicates completion on or before August 31, 2030.
- The project must be located on a perennial stream.

- Crossing replacement projects must be designed to pass, at a minimum, a 1% annual chance storm (100-year flood).
- All project funding sources are eligible as defined in this RFA and at least 10% in eligible match is identified.
- If applicable, letters of collaboration are provided from all Bidder partners, which must include "Lead" Bidder designation.
- Proof of property ownership or landowner permission must be provided as an upload to the Bid, as outlined in "Required Permissions" (see page 15).
- The Bidder must provide the required certification for sexual harassment prevention ("Attachment S"), as required by State Finance Law §139-l.
- The Bidder must provide the required EO 16 Certification.
- The Bidder must provide the required Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification ("Attachment G") as required by State Finance Law §139-m.
- Bid completeness: Bidders must complete the electronic bid and upload any required documentation. See the checklist in this RFA as a reference.

4. Project Types

Funding must be used to implement one of the following project types to meet the above Project Objectives. Bidders must identify which Project Type for which they are applying.

For all project types, preference is given to projects that benefit river herring or American eel, as well as projects that are in closest sequential proximity to tidal waters (see scoring criteria in Appendix III). For example, higher priority will be given to the first dam or barrier upstream from tidal waters than one involving the fourth dam or barrier. This same logic is applied to stream crossings, where mitigating one closer to the tidal portion of the stream is more beneficial than mitigating one farther upstream. Similarly, the quality of the habitat improvement is considered in the scoring. For example, a second barrier that is upstream of a very large, virtually impassable first barrier offers lower habitat quality improvement than one that is upstream of a dam that eel can more easily ascend. Education, stakeholder engagement, and public outreach about the benefits of this type of habitat restoration and flood mitigation may be included in each project type and is encouraged as a factor in the scoring.

The following resources may be useful in understanding river herring and American eel occurrence and habitat in streams as a proposal is developed:

- Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper: https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/hvnrm/
- Atlas of Inland Fishes of New York: https://nysm.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/atlasofinlandfishes.pdf

NOTES FOR PROJECT SUPPORT:

For all project types: Bids that demonstrate support from neighboring, upstream and downstream stakeholders and/or local officials has been secured will receive more points (see #13, Local Support & Implementation Commitment on page 16). The highest level of points for local support is available for Bids that include letters demonstrating support from the top elected official in the community (e.g. mayor or town supervisor,) and/or adjoining landowners (landowner letters must clearly identify the applicable property through an address and/or coordinates). Also see related scoring on pages 37-38. Support from highway supervisors and/or other key community stakeholders are also considered in the scoring.

Planning and reconnaissance Bids that clearly outline how the proposed plans will transition to implementation (i.e., actual dam removal or stream crossing replacement) will receive higher scores.

Project Type 1, Dam Removal Construction: A shovel-ready project removing a dam to improve habitat and/or water quality on tributaries within the geographic areas of this RFA. This project type may also include removal or mitigation of multiple barriers, and may include, in addition to dam removal, mitigation/right-sizing of one or more crossing that is a barrier to fish movement as assessed through NAACC road-stream crossing protocols (rated moderate, significant, severe), or is a priority of a management plan/study, or improves water quality or local flood resiliency. To be eligible for multi-barrier consideration, the barriers included in the Bid must be sequential or consecutive and must directly impact each other (otherwise, they must be submitted as separate Bids under this RFA).

All Bids for this project type must:

- include landowner agreements (if property not owned by applicant);
- include documentation of initial reconnaissance to substantiate feasibility of the project;
- demonstrate that the hydraulic impacts of dam removal on upstream and downstream properties have been adequately considered for the size, uses and condition of the affected area downstream and upstream of the dam.
- ensure that engineering plans submitted through this RFA are prepared, stamped, and signed by a NYS licensed Professional Engineer.

Bids should consider the potential need for post-construction riparian or floodplain restoration, depending on site conditions (e.g., floodplain slope and geomorphology) that includes native shrub and plantings. If post-construction riparian restoration is proposed and fits within the project timeline, one season of upstream post-construction maintenance and monitoring of plant material survival should be included in the project timeline and budget. If riparian restoration is done through the project, replacement of any planted material that has not survived should be included in the scope of services and the budget. Although pre/post stream monitoring is not required, it is recommended, and Bids that include monitoring will be eligible for additional points in the scoring. *Maintenance and monitoring may not exceed 10% of the total grant request.*

Project Type 2, Dam Removal Engineering and Design: A project that proposes engineering/design to remove a dam affecting fish movement, other aquatic organisms, riparian-dependent wildlife, and/or improve water quality conditions on tributaries within the geographic boundaries of this RFA. This project type may include planning for removal or mitigation of multiple barriers in a sequence, and may also include, in addition to dam removal, mitigation/right-sizing of one or more crossings that are barriers to fish movement as assessed through NAACC road-stream crossing protocols (rated moderate, significant, severe), or is a priority of a management plan/study, or improves water quality/local flood resiliency. Such projects may include landscape design and visualization of the site as it would look after dam removal. Projects that also improve the water quality and/or flood resiliency in the vicinity of the project are encouraged.

To be eligible for multi-barrier planning consideration, the barriers included in the Bid must be sequential (e.g. the first and second barrier or the second and third barrier to fish movement). Otherwise, they must be submitted as separate Bids under this RFA.

All Bids for this project type must:

- include some level of documentation of initial reconnaissance and/or risk assessment to substantiate feasibility and project complexity;
- address how upstream and downstream hydraulics will be adequately assessed for the size, uses and condition of the affected area downstream and upstream of the dam (artistic renderings may be included as part of this analysis).
- ensure that engineering plans created through this RFA are prepared, stamped, and signed by a NYS licensed Professional Engineer;

- ensure that the proposed deliverables create a shovel-ready project, including preparation of all materials to secure any necessary permit approvals;
- include in the timeline a preapplication meeting with NYSDEC Division of Environmental Permits;
- include a plan for upstream and downstream stakeholder outreach and engagement to ensure successful implementation; and
- plan for future streamside/riparian and/or former impoundment revegetation and restoration, if needed.

Projects planning for removal of a Class C (high) or Class B (intermediate) hazard dam should include an engineering report following the DEC's Dam Safety Engineering Design Report Outline (https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/npg23dam.pdf) in order to meet eligibility requirements for Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) implementation grants.

Project Type 3, Dam Removal Initial Reconnaissance and Risk Assessment: A project to conduct initial reconnaissance and risk assessment to assess the scope, complexity, and challenges of a dam removal may be proposed to determine feasibility of removing a dam or dams. Issues impeding a dam removal may not be fully apparent when proposing a project. Conducting a thorough investigation of the dam's history, site conditions (including sediment quality and quantity), historic and current watershed use, background, and neighborhood/adjacent landowner sentiment prior to an engineering and planning stage may be crucial to ensuring future success. Bids for this project type will conduct a thorough evaluation of the subject dam(s), identifying issues that may arise and obstacles to overcome, if dam removal proceeds. Such projects may include visualization of the site as it would look after dam removal.

Activities that can be proposed as part of initial reconnaissance include investigating the dam's purpose/use and existing issues, historical significance, identity of the dam owner(s), surveys/deeds of land ownership around the impoundment (tax parcels), evaluating ecological factors such as habitat, native and/or invasive species, and sediment quantity and quality, investigating potential risk to infrastructure, and communicating with and engaging stakeholders and the community about the benefits of dam removal (please refer to Appendies V and VI).

Project Type 4, Stream Crossing Replacement: Mitigation/right-sizing of a single stream crossing (culvert or bridge) that is assessed through NAACC road-stream crossing protocols (rated moderate, significant, severe), or is a priority of a management plan/study, or improves water quality and/or local flood resiliency.

All Bids for this project type must:
- include NAACC assessment results;
- include landowner agreements (if property not owned by applicant);
- address how the hydraulic impacts of crossing mitigation on upstream and downstream properties will be adequately considered for the size, uses and condition of the affected area downstream and upstream of the crossing;
- ensure that the replacement crossing is fully passable to fish;
- be designed, at a minimum, to meet New York State Department of Transportation's Highway Design Manual Chapter 8: https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/design/dqab/hdm/chapter-8.
    - The priority replacement option for an undersized, perched culvert is a bridge or bottomless arch. Refer to DEC's Guidelines and Best Management Practices for Road

Stream Crossings: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program/stream-crossings#Guidelines;
- be designed to meet the minimum Protection of Waters permit requirements: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program; and
- be designed to pass, at a minimum, a 1% annual chance storm (100-year flood).

Projects that involve substantial disturbance to stream channels or adjacent riparian areas should consider including a task for site restoration, including riparian tree and shrub plantings and bio-stabilization of streambanks.

Use the web map at https://naacc.org/naacc_data_center_home.cfm for detailed information on assessed crossings in the Hudson River estuary watershed, and contact DEC staff (jim.katz@dec.ny.gov) for help locating NAACC assessment results.

Project Type 5, Stream Crossing Design: Design plans for mitigation/right-sizing of a single stream crossing (culvert or bridge) or multiple crossings within the same municipality/county that are assessed through NAACC road-stream crossing protocols (rated moderate, significant, severe), or are priority of a management plan/study, or improves water quality and/or local flood resiliency. Such projects may include visualization of the site as it would look after crossing right-sizing.

All Bids for this project type must:
- include NAACC assessment results;
- ensure that the proposed deliverables can lead to a shovel-ready project, including preparation of all materials to secure any necessary permit approvals;
- address how the hydraulic impacts of crossing mitigation on upstream and downstream properties will be adequately considered for the size, uses and condition of the affected area downstream and upstream of the crossing. A project that occurs in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated regulatory floodway may require a hydrological and hydraulic (H&H) analysis conducted by a professional engineer demonstrating the proposed project will have 0.00 feet of rise in the base flood elevation when comparing pre- and post-project conditions. If the rise cannot be mitigated, a FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) would be required;
- ensure that the replacement crossing is fully passable to fish;
- be designed, at a minimum, to meet New York State Department of Transportation's Highway Design Manual Chapter 8: https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/design/dqab/hdm/chapter-8.
    - The priority replacement option for an undersized, perched culvert is a bridge or bottomless arch. Refer to DEC's Guidelines and Best Management Practices for Road Stream Crossings: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program/stream-crossings#Guidelines
- be designed to meet the minimum Protection of Waters permit requirements: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program
- be designed to pass, at a minimum, a 1% annual chance storm (100-year flood).

Where feasible, Bidders are encouraged to design new structures to safely pass a 100-year flood plus a 20% climate change flow multiplier per the New York State Flood Risk Management Guidance (https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/crrafloodriskmgmtgdnc.pdf).

Projects that involve substantial disturbance to stream channels or adjacent riparian areas should consider including a task for site restoration, including riparian tree and shrub plantings and bio-stabilization of streambanks.

Use the web map at https://naacc.org/naacc_data_center_home.cfm for detailed information on assessed crossings in the Hudson River estuary watershed, and contact DEC staff (jim.katz@dec.ny.gov) for help locating NAACC assessment results.

Project Type 6, Stream Crossing Design & Replacement: Design plans and implement replacement for mitigation/right-sizing of a single stream crossing (culvert or bridge) within the same municipality/county assessed through NAACC road-stream crossing protocols (rated moderate, significant, severe), or are priority of a management plan/study, or improves water quality/local flood resiliency. Such projects may include visualization of the site as it would look after crossing right-sizing.

All Bids for this project type must:

- include NAACC assessment results;
- ensure that the proposed deliverables can lead to successful completion of a crossing replacement, including preparation of all materials to secure any necessary permit approvals;
- address how the hydraulic impacts of crossing mitigation on upstream and downstream properties will be adequately considered for the size, uses and condition of the affected area downstream and upstream of the crossing. A project that occurs in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated regulatory floodway may require a hydrological and hydraulic (H&H) analysis conducted by a professional engineer demonstrating the proposed project will have 0.00 feet of rise in the base flood elevation when comparing pre- and post-project conditions. If the rise cannot be mitigated, a FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) would be required;
- ensure that the replacement crossing is fully passable to fish;
- be designed, at a minimum, to meet New York State Department of Transportation's Highway Design Manual Chapter 8: https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/design/dqab/hdm/chapter-8.
    - The priority replacement option for an undersized, perched culvert is a bridge or bottomless arch. Refer to DEC's Guidelines and Best Management Practices for Road Stream Crossings: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program/stream-crossings#Guidelines
- be designed to meet the minimum Protection of Waters permit requirements: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program;
- be designed to pass, at a minimum, a 1% annual chance storm (100-year flood).

Where feasible, Bidders are encouraged to design new structures to safely pass a 100-year flood plus a 20% climate change flow multiplier per the New York State Flood Risk Management Guidance (https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/crrafloodriskmgmtgdnc.pdf).

Projects that involve substantial disturbance to stream channels or adjacent riparian areas should consider including a task for site restoration, including riparian tree and shrub plantings and bio-stabilization of streambanks.

Use the web map at https://naacc.org/naacc_data_center_home.cfm for detailed information on assessed crossings in the Hudson River estuary watershed, and contact DEC staff (jim.katz@dec.ny.gov) for help locating NAACC assessment results.

RESOURCES:

- Instructions for floodplain location and regulatory floodway determination: https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/floodplainmapinstructions.pdf and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZne-tThzYI
- Guidance for projects to upgrade and replace road stream crossing structures to a larger size and appropriate design to increase ecological connectivity and hydrologic capacity: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program/stream-crossings#Guidelines
- DEC Stream Crossing Guidelines Brochure: https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits_ej_operations_pdf/streamcrossing.pdf
- North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Project (NAACC): https://streamcontinuity.org/naacc
- Assessed Road-Stream Crossings in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed: https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/hudson-river-estuary/watershed-management/aquatic-connectivity-and-barrier-removal-culvert-dams
- Floodplain Management Guidance: https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/dam-safety-coastal-flood-protection/floodplain-management
- Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper: https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/hvnrm/
- Atlas of Inland Fishes of New York: https://nysm.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/atlasofinlandfishes.pdf

5. Bid Application Form

A Bid Application Form (Word Document template available for download in SFS) was developed to help streamline the application process. Several questions that were previously published directly in the electronic SFS Application Form are now asked in the Bid Application Form. The intention of the Bid Application Form is to help reduce some of the cumbersome aspects of the electronic SFS Application Form. Bid questions are now addressed in the Bid Application Form, with the electronic SFS Application Form acting primarily as a repository for document uploads.

6. *Action Agenda* Measures of Success

Describe how the project will help achieve one or more Measures of Success as outlined in the *Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2026-2030*. *Action Agenda* Measures of Success, by goal, can be found in Appendix IV of this RFA. *As noted in Appendix IV, reporting for grants arising under this RFA will require updates on how the project is achieving specific Measure(s) of Success.*

7. Project Timeline

Bidders **MUST** provide a timeline for meeting project objectives and identified tasks between September 1, 2027 and August 31, 2030. **Project expenditures prior to the New York State Contract for Grants start date and after the end date are not eligible for reimbursement or match.**

All project timelines must include consultation with Program staff for project management purposes as step one in the timeline.

8. Initial Reconnaissance

Bids for planning for dam removal (Project Type 1) should provide documentation of initial reconnaissance completed, as well as any pre-work that may remain to be completed as part of the project (see Appendix VI for suggested format). Initial reconnaissance does not apply to any other Project Type, and Appendix VI is not required for these other project types.

9. Bidder Partners

The Bidder Partner is a collaborator who has a significant role in the project and is fundamentally a co-Bidder for the grant regardless of whether or not the partner is included in the budget. Projects involving a Bidder Partner (i.e. multi-partner and inter-municipal projects, page 4) require letters substantiating the commitment to collaborate that include the designation of a "Lead" Bidder from each Partner. A single PDF file of all letters should be uploaded to meet this requirement, if applicable for your project.

10. Permit Requirements

If applicable, the Bidder agrees to obtain all required permits including, but not limited to local, state, and federal permits prior to the commencement of any project-related work. The Bidder agrees that all work performed in relation to the project by the bidder or its agents, representatives, or sub-contractors will comply with all relevant federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations and standards, zoning and building codes, ordinances, operating certificates for facilities, or licenses for an activity.

See Appendix II of this RFA for more information on potential permit requirements. It is strongly encouraged for Bidders to request a NYSDEC jurisdictional review from the applicable regional permit administrator (https://dec.ny.gov/about/contact-us/permit-administrators) to confirm what permit needs may apply. Preparing permit application materials is considered to be an appropriate work activity covered by the grant. If applicable, Bidders should include a NYSDEC jurisdictional review meeting and/or preparation of permit materials as an activity in the Work Plan and project timeline.

For projects requiring a permit, engineering designs must meet the minimum requirements of applicable local, state, or federal permit requirements, as applicable, including but not limited to:

- Protection of Waters Program: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program#Application_Checklist
- Tidal Wetland Permit Program: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/tidal-wetlands-permit-program
- Freshwater Wetland Permits: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/freshwater-wetlands
- NYS's Coastal Consistency requirements: https://dos.ny.gov/coastal-consistency-review

11. Flood Resiliency Requirements

Any projects within a 0.2% (500-year) or 1% (100-year) FEMA floodplain must include the following in the planning and design of the project, if applicable:

- A site plan with the contours indicating the Special Flood Hazard Area (1% floodplain), Coastal High Hazard Area, or 0.2% floodplain
- Location of and elevation of non-critical and critical equipment
- Certification of floodproofing
- A floodway analysis with a no-rise certificate, if the project is within a regulated floodway.
- Projects that occur in the regulatory floodway may require a hydrological and hydraulic (H&H) analysis conducted by a New York State licensed Professional Engineer demonstrating the proposed project will have 0.00 feet of rise in the base flood elevation when comparing pre- and post-project conditions.6 If the rise cannot be mitigated, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) would be required.

Floodplain and floodway maps are available from the FEMA Flood Map Service Center: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home. Additional guidance and information for meeting this requirement is available at: https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/wqip-program.

12. Required Permissions

The Bidder must own the property, or obtain an applicable access agreement, for the proposed project

site. Proof of ownership or permission for work to be conducted on the property is required for **ALL** projects. **To avoid disqualification, Bidders must provide proof of property ownership and/or landowner permissions at the time of Bid**. A Bidder must upload in SFS Grants Management proof of ownership and/or landowner permissions (in a single PDF file) as follows:

- If the property is owned by the Bidder, and the Bidder IS NOT a municipality – Proof of ownership, such as a copy of the current deed or a current tax parcel map.
- If the property is owned by the Bidder, and the Bidder IS a municipality – A resolution by the municipality supporting the project.
- If the property is not owned by the Bidder and the property owner is not a municipality – A formal written agreement between the Bidder and landowner which allows the Bidder access to the property, and to represent the landowner, to accomplish the proposed project.
- If the property is not owned by the Bidder and the property owner is a municipality -
  i. A resolution by the municipality supporting the project.
  OR
  ii. A signed Municipal Endorsement. A municipal endorsement provides authorization for the not-for-profit to conduct the proposed project on municipal property. A sample municipal endorsement can be downloaded and viewed in the Pre-submission Upload section in SFS Grants Management.
  OR
  iii. A letter on municipal letterhead from the municipal chief operating officer providing authorization for the Bidder to conduct the proposed project on municipal property.

13. Local Support & Implementation Commitment

In addition to documenting the support of the primary property owner, as per the "Required Permissions" above, Bidders for planning for dam removal (Project Type 1), are strongly encouraged to secure and demonstrate proof of the support of other local stakeholders whose support may be key to project success (e.g. adjoining property owners, upstream and downstream landowners, sporting/hunting associations, municipal leaders, highway departments, elected officials, watershed councils).

Letters from local stakeholders should be submitted to substantiate project feasibility and implementation commitment and will improve the scoring of a Bid (higher points are available for Bidders submitting such letters). Support letters from the government body offering the grant, or institutions or organizations who are fiscal sponsors and/or will provide services under the grant, will not be considered as "stakeholders," and no extra points will be awarded for these letters. If stakeholder letters are submitted, the letters must be submitted at the time of Bid. Bidders will be asked in SFS Grants Management to upload, in a single PDF file, a copy of all letters of key stakeholder support and implementation commitment.

14. Outreach & Engagement

Outreach or training to help people utilize and engage with the proposed plans, designs or projects may also be included as a task in the work plan and is strongly encouraged where applicable. This could include identification and communication of social, environmental and economic benefits, including enhanced recreational opportunities, increased property values, ecosystem and habitat improvements, reduction of flood risk, etc.

15. Engagement of Program Staff

At a minimum, project timelines must include consultation with Program Staff for project management purposes as step one in the timeline (e.g. a project kick-off meeting). Additionally, Bidders are strongly encouraged, but are not required, to invite Program staff to attend stakeholder meetings and to provide technical assistance. An invitation for such additional participation should be included as a step in the project timeline schedule and deliverables. Program staff may choose to participate, or not, in response to

the invitation, as time allows. Please note that engagement of Program staff is not a substitute for stakeholder engagement by the Bidder.

Should an award be made, Bidders will be required to connect with the applicable Program Project Manager (to be assigned during the contracting stage) before work is started on the project.

16. Knowledge, Skills and Experience (Qualifications)
Bidders must possess the knowledge, skills, and/or track record to successfully implement the project, including any experience with and understanding of aquatic organism passage. Priority is given to Bidders with excellent qualifications or a successful track record with this type of project.

17. Project Cost Effectiveness
The cost-effectiveness of the proposed project will be evaluated as provided in the Bid Review and Scoring Standards in Appendix III. The answer to this question, as well as the information provided in the Expenditure Budget will be used to determine scoring for cost effectiveness. Cost effectiveness will be evaluated from the standpoint of budget detail, cost match, balance, and value. Bidders may compare the project costs to other similar work and explain the balance of expenses across budget categories. To sufficiently respond to this question, bidders are encouraged to upload documentation to support specific budget items, such as standard government wage rates, current market prices for equipment, and cost-estimates from potential contractors / vendors. If you are funding a salary, describe what staff will be doing for the project and the estimated time they will be dedicated to the project. If a contractor is or will be selected to complete work related to your project, discuss the process of selecting the contractor and upload documentation for cost estimates or contractor quotes, where applicable. Not all budget requests will need supporting documentation. If nothing is available or relevant, then provide reasoning for your request. Bidders that provide 15% eligible match or more above the minimum 10% may be eligible for additional points for cost effectiveness (see Appendix III).

18. Statewide Priority

- **Alignment with Regional Economic Development (REDC) Strategies**

New York State directed the establishment of Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) to analyze the most significant business clusters in their respective areas. Any grants awarded by the State of New York shall take into consideration the recommendation of the relevant REDC or the Commissioner's determination that the proposed project aligns within the regional strategic priorities of the region where the proposed project is located.

The Bidder can provide a brief narrative describing the economic benefits of the proposed project and how the project aligns with the strategies of the REDC plan for the project's region. The narrative must be included with the Bid to receive points in the bid review.
Each region has a unique plan. Visit https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov for information on your region's Economic Development Council.

- **Priority for Projects Affecting Environmental Justice (EJ) and Disadvantaged Communities**

DEC is committed to underserved and vulnerable populations, and providing remedies for communities that may be burdened by negative environmental consequences. Environmental Justice (EJ) is defined by the DEC as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Potential Environmental Justice Areas (PEJA) are U.S. Census block groups of 250 to 500 households each that, in the Census, had populations that met or exceeded at least one of the following statistical thresholds: at least 52.42% of the population in an urban area reported themselves to be members of

minority groups; or at least 26.28% of the population in a rural area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or at least 22.82% of the population in an urban or rural area had household incomes below the federal poverty level.

Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) are identified by New York's Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) using indicators that include climate-related risks, environmental burdens, health vulnerabilities, and socio-economic factors.

Maps of PEJA and DAC areas in New York State are available at: https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/environmental-justice/gis-tools and https://climate.ny.gov/resources/disadvantaged-communities-criteria/, respectively, as well as in the Reference layers on the Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper at: https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/lakes-rivers/hudson-river/hudson-valley-natural-resource-mapper.

Bidders may also serve an EJ community, as defined in DEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting (available on DEC's website at: https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/environmental-justice/related-policy-regulations).

Projects can integrate EJ principles into projects through meaningful and inclusive engagement with affected community members and with place-based projects that address climate equity-related challenges, water quality issues, health disparities, lack of access to green spaces, environmental education, or other such impacts.

Projects that are located within a PEJA or DAC, or projects that provide direct benefits to a PEJA or DAC areas are eligible to receive will "EJ and DAC Benefits" points in the evaluation of a bid, To qualify for "EJ and DAC Benefits" points, your bid must: specify the exact street location(s) where the project is to be implemented (no P.O. Box) or where the benefit will be provided, and provide a summary narrative describing how project activities will benefit populations in PEJA or DAC areas.

19. Expenditure Based Budget
Bidders must complete an itemized budget in SFS Grants Management that provides details of the proposed project-related expenses. Budget detail must clearly distinguish between expenses to be claimed under the State grant share and expenses comprising the match. The itemized budget should also include appropriate level of information for the breakdown of costs for each budget item (depending on the budget category this information is provided in the budget detail and/or budget narrative). Eligible and ineligible costs are identified in this RFA. A project's reasonableness of costs is at least 20% of the evaluation factor in the scoring of the bid; therefore, attention to budget accuracy will increase your project score.

20. Work Plan
Bidders must complete a work plan in SFS Grants Management that provides a clear overview of the project. Bids must include proposed project objectives, tasks associated with meeting each objective, and the performance measures associated with each task (performance measures should include desired project outcomes or deliverables). The work plan should include anticipated time frames in meeting project objectives, tasks and deliverables. Time frames must be consistent with the timeline Bidders are required to upload in the SFS Grants Management.

21. Quality Assurance
(Required for Water Quality or Sediment Assessment and Monitoring projects)
Quality assurance applies to all programs/projects that involve the collection, generation or use of environmental data associated with the mapping, modeling, monitoring, and assessment of water

quality data intended for use by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for its regulatory purposes. If a proposed project includes collection of environmental water quality data, a DEC-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is required to ensure that proper sampling methods are being followed, and that traceable, reproducible results are generated. Bids including water quality data collection must include an initial meeting with DEC Division of Water and Hudson River Estuary Program staff prior to development of the QAPP. If the Bidder proposes to collect data for assessment and listing purposes, the data quality and quantity requirements outlined in the NYSDEC Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM) must be followed.

Guidance and resources for DEC's quality assurance can be found on DEC's quality assurance webpage (https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quality/assurance). Activities associated with these types of programs/projects, conducted in the field or laboratory, shall be:

a. Performed in accordance with an effective quality system for planning and assessing environmental measurements and tests, and for conducting required quality assurance and quality control procedures to promote and maintain the accuracy and reliability of environmental measurements and test results. An effective QAPP based on guidance provided by the USEPA Standard for Quality Assurance Project Plans (CIO 2105-S-02.1, August 2023), or American National Standard ASQ/ANSI E4:2014: Quality management systems for environmental information and technology programs—Requirements with guidance for use, approved February 4, 2014;
b. The fulfillment of the data verification, validation, and usability component of QAPP is to be documented in a Data Usability Assessment Report (DUAR) or Modeling Usability Assessment Report (MUAR);
c. Performed by a laboratory certified by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) under the Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) pursuant to Section 502 of the Public Health Law. This requirement shall not apply to specific parameters where NYS DOH ELAP has not issued a certificate for the specific parameter;
d. Performed in a manner that ensures all requisite quality control and calibration requirements are met, including field testing, sample collection, preservation, and record-keeping. Basic quality assurance and quality control requirements defined in 40 CFR Part 136.7 shall be followed as well as any specific method requirements;
e. Required to submit environmental monitoring data electronically to US EPA Water Quality Exchange (WQX) following the guidance as set by US EPA's WQX Submission Instructions.
f. Covered under the Publicity clause (article IV.G.) of the State of New York Contract for Grants – Standard Terms and Conditions. Specifically, the Contractor agrees that any work products, including but not limited to, water quality data or environmental information; measured, generated, or developed under this contract shall not be released, published, cited, or shared in draft or final form without prior written authorization from the Department; and
g. At a minimum, performed in accordance with water quality standards in 6 NYCRR Part 703 and/or guidance values in Technical and Operational Guidance Series (TOGS) 1.1.1. Projects designed to assess water quality or inform regulatory decisions must measure parameters with applicable water quality standards and/or guidance values.

Costs related to QAPP development may be included in the budget as needed. A template for the QAPP is provided in the Event Comments and Attachments section of the Grants Management System.

22. Sexual Harassment Prevention Certification

State Finance Law §139-l requires all Bidders of grant funding to certify that they have a written policy addressing sexual harassment prevention in the workplace and provide annual sexual harassment training (that meets the Department of Labor's model policy and training standards) to all its employees.

Where applying for grant funding is required pursuant to statute, rule or regulation, every bid submitted to the state or any public department or agency of the state must contain the following statement: “By submission of this bid, each Bidder and each person signing on behalf of the Bidder certifies, and in the case of a partnering bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that the Bidder has and has implemented a written policy addressing sexual harassment prevention in the workplace and provides annual sexual harassment prevention training to all of its employees. Such policy shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements of section two hundred one-g of the labor law.”

Bids that do not contain the certification will not be considered for award; provided however, that if the bidder cannot make the certification, the bidder may provide a signed statement with their bid detailing the reasons why the certification cannot be made. After review and consideration of such statement, the Department may reject the bid or may decide there are sufficient reasons to accept the bid without such certification.

Bidders are required to sign and upload the Sexual Harassment Prevention Certification form or upload a signed statement with their bid detailing the reasons why the certification cannot be provided. The certification form or statement must be signed by an authorized staff of the contractor, and dated after the application start date.

23. Executive Order 16

Executive Order No. 16 provides that “all Affected State Entities are directed to refrain from entering into any new contract or renewing any existing contract with an entity conducting business operations in Russia.” The complete text of Executive Order No. 16 can be found at https://www.governor.ny.gov/executive-order/no-16-prohibiting-state-agencies-and-authorities-contracting-businesses-conducting. The Executive Order remains in effect while sanctions against Russia imposed by the federal government are in effect. Accordingly, vendors who may be excluded from award because of current business operations in Russia are nevertheless encouraged to respond to solicitations to preserve their contracting opportunities in case the sanctions are lifted during a solicitation or even after award in the case of some solicitations. As defined in Executive Order No. 16, an “entity conducting business operations in Russia” means an institution or company, wherever located, conducting any commercial activity in Russia or transacting business with the Russian Government or with commercial entities headquartered in Russia or with their principal place of business in Russia in the form of contracting, sales, purchasing, investment, or any business partnership. Vendors responding to this solicitation are required to complete and submit the form entitled “Certification Under Executive Order No. 16 Prohibiting State Agencies and Authorities from Contracting with Businesses Conducting Business in Russia”.

ALL bidders must download, complete, and save the Executive Order No. 16 Certification form, prior to uploading the completed form back into the GM. The certification form must be signed by an authorized staff of the contractor, and dated after the application start date.

24. Attachment G: Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification

State Finance Law §139-m requires bidders on state procurements to certify that they have a written policy addressing gender-based violence and the workplace and have provided such policy to all of its employees, directors and board members. Such policy shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements of subdivision 11 of section five hundred seventy-five of the executive law.

Where competitive bidding is required pursuant to statute, rule or regulation, for work or services performed or to be performed or goods sold or to be sold, every bid made to the state or any public department or agency of the state must contain the following statement:

"By submission of this bid, each bidder and each person signing on behalf of any bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that the bidder has and has implemented a written policy addressing gender-based violence and the workplace and has provided such policy to all of its employees, directors and board members. Such policy shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements of subdivision 11 of section five hundred seventy-five of the executive law."

Bids that do not contain the certification will not be considered for award; provided however, that if the bidder cannot make the certification, the bidder shall provide a signed statement with their bid detailing the reasons why the certification cannot be made. After review and consideration of such statement, the Department may reject the bid or may decide that there are sufficient reasons to accept the bid without such certification.

Bidders are required to sign and submit the Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification form, (Attachment G) If the bidder cannot make the certification then a signed statement must be submitted with the bid detailing the reasons why the certification cannot be made. The certification form must be signed by an authorized staff of the contractor, and dated after the application start date.

25. Smart Growth Infrastructure Policy Act

New York State's Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act (ACT), Environmental Conservation Law Article 6, requires the DEC and all State infrastructure agencies to assess whether each public infrastructure project that receives state funding is consistent with the State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure criteria specified in the Act, or that compliance is considered to be impracticable, before making any commitment to fund such project(s). ALL bidders must complete and save the Smart Growth Assessment form, prior to uploading the completed form back into SFS Grants Management. Important note: Be sure to check the form after uploading to ensure the correct file is uploaded and is completed as required.

26. Historic Preservation Review Requirements (if applicable to your project)

For projects that involve properties listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places, all work undertaken as part of a grant-assisted project must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Questions about or proposals for listing on the State or National Register should be directed to the OPRHP National Register Unit at (518) 237-8643. To ensure the public benefit from the investment of state funding, preservation covenants or conservation easements will be conveyed to the State (OPRHP) for all historic property grants.

27. Coastal Consistency Requirements

SEQR Type I and Unlisted actions located within the NYS Department of State's coastal zone boundaries must meet the consistency requirements of the Secretary of State's Coastal Management Program. This consistency determination will be performed by the Department as part of the grant review process. If the proposed project is located within a municipality that has an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), the policies of that LWRP apply. Projects in other areas will need to be consistent with the State's 44 coastal policies. The coastal policies can be found at https://dos.ny.gov/coastal-consistency-review. Bidders are encouraged to determine if their project is located within the coastal zone, and to include in their site plan or sketch map their project's location within the coastal zone boundaries if applicable. Maps of the coastal zone boundaries can be found at https://dos.ny.gov/using-coastal-atlas-gis-gateway.

28. Secular Purpose
If services performed pursuant to the New York State Contract for Grants are secular in nature, or are performed by a secular organization, they shall be performed in a manner that does not discriminate on the basis of religious belief, or promote or discourage adherence to religion in general or particular religious beliefs

Bid Evaluation, Scoring and Selection

All Bids will be reviewed and scored by a review team in accordance with the evaluation and scoring criteria contained in this RFA. **Bidders are strongly encouraged to read and address the Bid Review and Scoring Standards in Appendix III in the process of developing a Bid.** Knowledge of the scoring criteria is valuable for designing and proposing a relevant and quality project. Scoring consists of:

Step 1: Bid and Project Eligibility Determination
Pass/Fail criteria – please refer to the Bid Evaluation and Scoring Standards in Appendix III.

Step 2: Project Evaluation, Scoring and Selection
If your Bid meets all eligibility pass/fail criteria it will be further evaluated and scored by a review team in accordance with the Evaluation and Scoring Standards contained in this RFA. These include:

- Evaluation of the project type, methods, budget and Bidder qualifications; and
- Assessment of the project impact, and priority project eligibility.

All eligible Bids will be individually evaluated and scored by at least 3 technical review team members. Technical reviewer scores will be averaged, and statewide priority points will be added to the average score to determine a final composite score.

A bid must score a minimum of 40 points to be eligible for funding.

Tie breaker – – If there is a numerical tie in a bid's final score, the bid that scores the highest in "Project Objectives and Methods" in the evaluation criteria will determine placement on the ranked list. If a tie remains, the bid that scores the highest in "Project Success Factors" in the evaluation criteria number will determine placement on the ranked list. If there is a numerical tie between multiple bids within a funding category, the bid that scores the highest in Cost-Effectiveness will determine placement on the ranked list. If a tie remains, the order bids were received will determine placement on the ranked list, with the earliest bid placing highest.

Grant Program Payment

Advance payments of up to 25% of the awarded grant amount may be available to not-for-profit grantees once a New York State Contract for Grants has been fully approved by all applicable State agencies. Only not-for-profits are eligible to receive advance payments under State Finance Law.

Project costs eligible for reimbursement and project match must be incurred between the New York State Contract for Grants term start and end dates. Costs incurred prior to the New York State Contract for Grants term start date or after the term end date will not be considered eligible for grant reimbursement or match. Copies of supporting cost documentation (paid invoices, receipts, cancelled checks, etc.) must be audited and approved by the DEC for costs to be eligible for grant reimbursement.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenditures

Eligible Project Expenditures

- Personal Services: Staff salaries including fringe benefits, directly devoted to the project. Itemize salaries according to job title and roles/responsibilities on the project. Grantees will be required to document time worked, tasks, pay ratio and payment.
- Administrative salaries: Staff salaries devoted to grant administration including preparing the final workplan (DEC contract), preparation of quarterly narrative and expenditure reports, reimbursement request documentation, and preparation of the final report upon project completion. Administrative salaries may not exceed 10% of the total grant request.
- Contractual Services: The value of services provided by responsible professional and technical personnel and consultants (i.e. engineering and architectural services, surveys, plans and specifications, research, design and development of a project, consultant and legal services directly related to a project, feasibility study for a facility, archaeological field work, report writing, curation of artifacts and interpretation, etc.) Equipment and other non-property rentals directly required to implement the project.
- Supplies and materials: Directly needed to implement the project.
- Maintenance and monitoring: Maintenance for riparian restoration and/or pre/post dam removal stream monitoring (may not exceed 10% of the total grant request).

Ineligible Project Expenditures

- Indirect costs: Overhead or operating expenses (space, real property, rent, utilities, etc.).
- Travel costs
- Equipment Purchase
- State and/or federal funding: project costs funded from other state and/or federal funding sources are not eligible for grant reimbursement.

Budget limitations:

- ***Project Type 1: Maintenance and monitoring may not exceed 10% of the total grant request.***

Match Requirement and Expenditures

Bidders must provide at least **10% in match funds based on the amount of grant funds.** Projects that provide 15% match or more will receive additional points in the scoring.

Formula: Requested Budget x 10% = Required Match

Eligible Forms of Match

- Cash: Includes other grants from non-state or non-federal funding sources.
- Personal Services: Staff salaries devoted to the project, including fringe benefits expenses. Itemize salaries according to job title or job assignment on the project. Grantees will be required to document time worked, tasks, pay ratio and payment.
- Contractual Services: The value of services provided by responsible professional and technical personnel and consultants (i.e. engineering and architectural services, surveys, plans and specifications, research, design and development of a project, consultant and legal services directly related to a project, feasibility study for a facility, archaeological field work, report writing, curation of artifacts and interpretation, etc.). Equipment and other non-property rentals directly required to implement the project.
- Supplies and materials: The current market value of items warehoused (not yet installed); use value current at time items were obtained.
- Volunteer Labor: Skilled and professional labor can be computed at the job rate. Unskilled labor and work performed by professionals or skilled laborers in an area outside of their area of expertise must be computed at the minimum wage (For example, a lawyer donating legal services may compute the value based on the standard billing rate, but the same lawyer donating time painting walls must calculate the value using minimum wage).
- Equipment Purchase: Compute the value according to its fair market rental value in the project location.
- Administrative Salaries: Administrative salaries must be documented and identified by task and must fall within the grant contract term to be eligible as match. For the purposes of this RFA, administrative salaries are defined as follows:
    - Preparation of equal employment opportunity and women and minority business enterprises documentation.
    - Preparation of quarterly narrative and expenditure reports.
    - Preparation of payment reimbursement request forms and backup cost documentation.
    - Preparation of Final Report upon project completion.

    Bidders must clearly identify administrative salaries to be used towards match in the personal services detail section of the expenditure budget.

- Value of land easements: For an easement to be considered eligible match, credible documentation proving appraised value of the easement must be uploaded (Cost Effectiveness and Funding).

Ineligible Forms of Match

- Indirect costs: Overhead or operating expenses (space, real property, rent, utilities, etc.).
- Travel costs
- Other State or Federal funding: Project costs paid from other state and/or federal funding sources.

Grant Program Reporting

Quarterly Narrative Reports must be submitted in narrative form, no later than 30 days from the end of the calendar quarter. The reports will summarize how the project progressed toward meeting project objectives and deliverables during the respective quarter.

Quarterly Expenditure Reports, detailed by object of expense as defined in the Attachment B-1 Expenditure Based Budget, must accompany the quarterly Narrative Reports, no later than 30 days from the end of the calendar quarter. These reports must correlate to subsequent vouchers submitted for payment.

Quarterly payment reimbursement requests will be accepted prior to submission of a final closeout reimbursement request. An approved project design, required permits, and landowner permissions must be in place to submit a reimbursement request.

Final Report must be submitted and approved by the DEC prior to the release of the final contract payment to the Grantee. The Contractor must submit the Final Report no later than 60 days after the end of the contract period. The Final Report should report on all aspects of the program and detail how the use of grant funds were utilized in achieving the goals set forth in the approved Attachment C Work Plan. Copies of appropriate documents (i.e. inventory and/or management plan) must be submitted and approved by the DEC.

A DEC on-site inspection may be required to confirm all work was completed in accordance with the approved project Work Plan (including the installation of interpretive signage, if applicable, at the project site).

Any project involving volunteer time will be required to report the number of volunteers and the number of volunteer hours in their project quarterly status reports. The total number of volunteers and volunteer hours for the entire project must be reported in the Final Report.

Projects already receiving funds from another NYS or Federal assistance grant program are not eligible to receive funding for the same project activities identified in this RFA.

What to Expect If You Receive an Award

1. Notification of Award

Bidders selected to receive a grant award will be notified by email and in an official DEC award letter. NYS SFS Grants Management will also provide you with an award status.

IMPORTANT NOTE: By accepting an award, Bidder agrees to abide by all New York State Contract terms and conditions. Any changes to the terms and conditions will not be accepted and may affect Bidder's award.

2. State of New York Contract for Grants

Bidders selected to receive a grant award will be required to execute a within 60 - 90 days from the time of their award notification. Failure to submit timely required documents could cause a grantee to lose their grant award. Bidders should review and be prepared to comply with all terms and conditions should grant funding be awarded. The New York State Contract for Grants and attachments include:

- Grants Face Page
- New York State Contract Standard Terms and Conditions
- Appendix A – Statewide Terms and Conditions
- Attachment A-1 Agency Specific Terms and Conditions
- Attachment A-2 Program Specific Terms and Conditions
- Attachment B-1 Expenditure Based Budget (*project expense categories and detail)*
- Attachment C Work Plan (project objectives, tasks and performance measures)
- Attachment D Payment and Reporting Schedule (claims for reimbursement and grant reporting provisions)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Project-related costs must be incurred within the term of the contract to be considered eligible for reimbursement or match. Contract payments will not be approved or processed by the DEC until a contract is fully approved by the DEC, and as applicable the Attorney General and the State Comptroller. All contracts must be fully approved by the contract start date of

Bidders (referred to as "Contractor" following award of Grant Contract) Should Be Prepared to Comply With the Following Requirements:

a. Insurance Requirements

Contractor will be required to carry appropriate insurance as specified in the Contract, Attachment A-1 Agency Specific Terms and Conditions, and agree that each project consultant, project contractor and project subcontractor secures and delivers to the contractor appropriate policies of insurance issued by an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of New York. Policies must name the contractor as an additional insured, with appropriate limits, covering contractor's public liability and property damage insurance, contractor's contingency

liability insurance, “all-risk” insurance and workers’ compensation/disability benefits coverage for the project.

b. Signage Requirements (if applicable)

The Department will require project signs for construction projects under this RFA (see Appendix VIII for specifications). All signs shall be constructed in accordance with the specifications identified in the New York State Contract for Grants (size: 24" wide by 18" high or as appropriate to sign location, construction materials: aluminum blank sign boards with vinyl sheeting). The cost of the sign is a reimbursable project cost and should be included in the “other” category in the expenditure-based budget. The Department may, in its discretion, waive this requirement if the sign cannot be reasonably maintained, the sign is not consistent with other laws, or the location of the sign would not provide a public purpose.

c. Permit Requirements (if applicable)

Contractors agree to obtain all required permits, including but not limited to, local, state and federal permits prior to the commencement of any project-related work. The Contractor agrees that all work performed in relation to the project by the Contractor or its agents, representatives, or contractors will comply with all relevant federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and standards, zoning and building codes, ordinances, operating certificates for facilities, or licenses for an activity.

d. State Environmental Quality Review Documentation

With respect to the project, the Contractor certifies that it has complied, and shall continue to comply, with all requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The Contractor agrees to provide all environmental documents as may be required by the DEC. The Contractor has notified, and shall continue to notify, the DEC of all actions proposed for complying with the environmental review requirements imposed by SEQRA.

e. Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire

Not-For-Profit contractors and/or subcontractors are subject to a vendor responsibility review by the State to ensure public dollars are being spent appropriately with responsible contractors. A vendor responsibility review may include a contractor and/or subcontractor to present evidence of its continuing legal authority to do business in NYS, integrity, experience, ability, prior performance, and organizational and financial capacity. To enroll in and use the NYS VendRep System, see the VendRep System instructions available at http://www.osc.state.ny.us/vendrep/enroll.htm, or go directly to the VendRep System at https://onlineservices.osc.state.ny.us/Enrollment/login?0.

f. Iran Divestment Act

As a result of the Iran Divestment Act of 2012 (Act), Chapter 1 of the 2012 Laws of New York, a new provision has been added to the State Finance Law (SFL), § 165-a, effective April 12, 2012. By entering into a Contract, the Contractor certifies that it is not on the “Entities Determined To Be Non-Responsive Bidders/Offerers Pursuant to The New York State Iran Divestment Act of 2012” list (“Prohibited Entities List”) posted on the OGS website at: http://www.ogs.ny.gov/about/regs/docs/ListofEntities.pdf and further certifies that it will not utilize on such Contract any subcontractor that is identified on the Prohibited Entities List. Additional detail on the Iran Divestment Act can be found in the New York State Contract for Grants, Attachment A-1 Program Specific Terms and Conditions.

g. Minority/women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) and Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) Requirements

The Department is required to implement the provisions of New York State Executive Law Article 15-A and 5 NYCRR Parts 142-144 (MWBE Regulations) for all State contracts with a value (1) in excess of $25,000 for labor, services, equipment, materials, or any combination of the foregoing or (2) in excess of $100,000 for real property renovations and construction.

Bidders subject to executing a future NYS Contract for Grants agree, in addition to any other nondiscrimination provision of the Contract and at no additional cost to the Department, to fully comply and cooperate with the Department in the implementation of New York State Executive Law Article 15-A. These requirements include Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) for minority group members and women and contracting opportunities for certified Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs). Contractor's demonstration of Good Faith Efforts (GFEs) pursuant to 5 NYCRR §142.8 shall be a part of these requirements. These provisions shall be deemed supplementary to, and not in lieu of, the nondiscrimination provisions required by New York State Executive Law Article 15 (the "Human Rights Law") or other applicable federal, state or local laws.

Failure to comply with MWBE and EEO requirements may result in a Department finding of non-responsiveness, non-responsibility and/or a breach of contract, leading to the withholding of funds or such other actions, liquidated damages, or enforcement proceedings.

Please refer to the NYS Contract for Grants - Article IV (J) and Attachment A-1 Agency Specific Terms and Conditions - Article X, to review MWBE and EEO requirements.

- The local government is responsible for designating someone to serve as their Affirmative Action representative. The governing body should make this designation through official means.

- A list of certified M/WBE enterprises can be obtained via the internet from the NYS Department of Economic Development at https://ny.newnycontracts.com/FrontEnd/searchcertifieddirectory.asp

MWBE reporting for Department of Environmental Conservation contracts must now be completed using the New York State Contract System (NYSCS). https://ny.newnycontracts.com/.

All contracts of $25,000 or more will be assessed for MWBE goals. Contracts which meet the established MWBE-EEO thresholds require the Contractor to submit the Utilization Plan prior to the execution of the contract and Monthly Compliance Audits in the NYSCS after the contract is executed. To submit the required MWBE Utilization Plan, log-in to NYSCS and access the Utilization Plans section displayed on the user dashboard. Plans requiring action will be displayed in red.

All contractors shall complete an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy Statement and Staffing Plan form and submit it prior to the execution of the contract.

For more information regarding MWBE compliance and reporting guidelines, and to download required forms, please visit https://dec.ny.gov/about/doing-business#MWBE.

The following M/WBE-EEO "Fair Share" goals are established as follows:

Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Overall Participation Goals:
Construction/Engineering – up to 30%
Commodities – up to 30%

Services/Technologies – up to 30%

DEC M/WBE Compliance
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Contract and Grant Development/MWBE Program
625 Broadway, 10th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-5028
Mwbe@dec.ny.gov
Phone: (518) 402-9240

h. Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Participation Requirements

The Department is required to implement the provisions of New York State Veteran's Law Article 3. The contractor must make Good Faith Efforts to subcontract a goal of 6% of the contract amount to New York State Certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOBs), for purposes of providing meaningful participation by SDVOBs.

The contractor is required to complete and submit a SDVOB Utilization Plan detailing how the contractor intends to meet the SDVOB goal. In addition, the contractor must complete and submit quarterly compliance reports detailing the amount spent on SDVOBs in the previous quarter. In addition, all forms and guidance can be located at https://ogs.ny.gov/veterans/division-service-disabled-veterans-business-development-compliance-and-reporting. Please contact the Department's SDVOB compliance staff with any questions at:

DEC SDVOB Compliance Unit
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Contract and Grant Development/SDVOB Program
625 Broadway, 10th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-5028
SDVOB@dec.ny.gov
Phone: (518) 402-9240

i. Procurement of Contractors/Subcontractors

Municipalities must comply with General Municipal Law Sections 103 (competitive bidding) and 104-b (procurement policies and procedures). Not-for-profit corporations must follow procurement policies that ensure prudent and economical use of public money. Failure to comply with these requirements could jeopardize full reimbursement of your approved eligible project costs.

j. Americans With Disabilities Act

In the event the monies defined herein are to be used for the development of facilities, outdoor recreation areas, transportation or written or spoken communication with the public, the Contractor shall comply with all requirements for providing access for individuals with disabilities as established by Article 4A of the New York State Public Buildings Law, Americans with Disabilities Act, and relevant sections of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. Standards for certain Recreation Facilities are found in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design while others are found in the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Recreation Areas https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards.

k. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act 2006

In 2007, New York State passed legislation establishing the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act 2006 (DERA). This Act amended the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) by adding Section 19-0323 which requires the use of best available retrofit technology (BART) and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD) for heavy duty vehicles owned or operated by, including on behalf of, state agencies and state or regional public authorities. The Department has promulgated regulations (6 NYCRR Part 248) to provide guidance on provisions of the law. The regulations may be found on the Department's website at https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/chapter-iii.

If applicable, the contractor must comply with the specifications and provisions of ECL Section 19-0323 and 6 NYCRR Part 248, which require the use of BART and ULSD, unless specifically waived by the Department. Qualifications for a waiver under this law are the responsibility of the Contractor.

l. Debriefing Request

In accordance with section 163 of the NY State Finance Law, DEC must, upon request, provide a debriefing to any unsuccessful offeror that responded to the Program Overview, regarding the reasons that the proposal or bid submitted by the unsuccessful offeror was not selected for an award. An unsuccessful offeror wanting a debriefing must request a debriefing in writing, within fifteen calendar days of receipt of the notice that their proposal did not result in an award. Debriefings requested after fifteen calendar days may be denied.

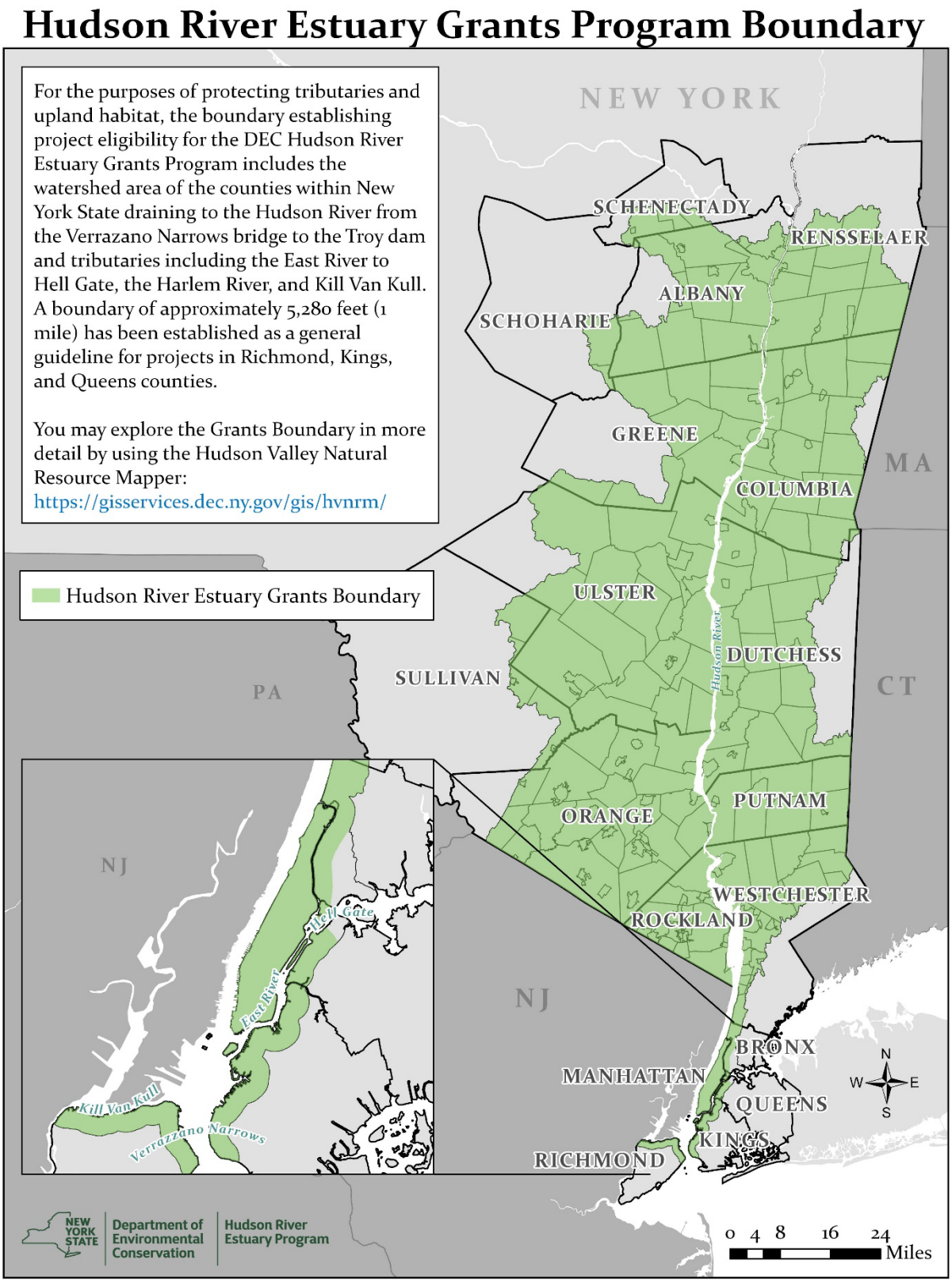
m. Protest Procedure

DEC does not have a formal protest procedure; therefore a Bidder may file an initial protest with OSC's Bureau of Contracts (BOC) after the Department has made a contract award. The protest must be in writing and filed with BOC within ten business days of notice of the contract award or if a debriefing has been requested by the interested party, within five business days of the debriefing (whichever is later). If the interested party is not provided with notice of the contract award, the interested party may file a protest with BOC at any time after the contract award and prior to the Comptroller's final action on the contract.

Formal protests concerning a pending contract award must be received within five (5) business days after the protesting party knows or should have known of the facts that constitute the basis of the formal protest.

The protest must be filed with:
Bureau Director at bidprotests@osc.ny.gov or Bureau of Contracts
New York State Office of the State Comptroller
110 State Street, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12236

Appendix I: Map of Eligible Project Locations



Appendix II: Budget, Work Plan, and Permit Requirement Guidance

BUDGET

General:

Eligible expenditures for grant and match are noted on pages 25-26 of this RFA.

The following item should be included in the budget (as applicable):

- Projects that include monitoring:

  A QAPP is required for all projects that include monitoring. Funds may be allocated toward QAPP development if a QAPP is not submitted at time of Bid.

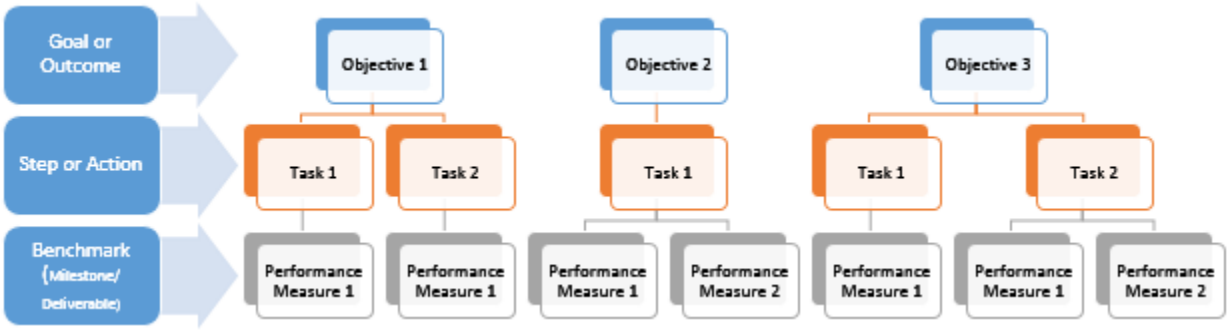
Budget limitation:

Project Type 1: Maintenance and monitoring may not exceed 10% of the total grant request.

WORK PLAN

General:

The Work Plan is an outline of the project plan and consists of Objectives, Tasks, and Performance Measures. Objectives are essentially the goals or outcomes of the project. Tasks are the detailed steps or actions required to meet the Objective. Performance Measures are the benchmarks used to determine if the corresponding task is achieved (often a milestone or deliverable that will identify task completion). The majority of the detail should be included at the task level.



The Work Plan Summary should be a brief Statement of Work that provides an overview of the project. The bulk of the information about the project should be input in the Work Plan Detail as Objectives, Tasks, and Performance Measures.

The following items must be included in the Work Plan:

- All Projects:
  - The Work Plan must include a task for consultation with DEC Estuary Program staff for project management purposes at the start of the project.

  It is strongly encouraged to incorporate opportunities for Estuary Program staff to attend stakeholder meetings and to provide technical assistance in the planning process.

- For projects that include any sediment or water monitoring:

A QAPP is required for all projects that include any sediment or water monitoring. If a QAPP is not submitted at time of Bid (see the Pre-Submission Uploads for the template), then QAPP Development must be included in the Work Plan. Example as follows:

OBJECTIVE	TASKS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1: Develop QAPP for DEC Review and Approval	a. Draft and Submit QAPP - Draft a QAPP and submit it to DEC's Quality Assurance Officer for review and approval.	i. QAPP Submitted - QAPP is submitted to DEC's Quality Assurance Officer for review and approval.
	b. Approved QAPP - As needed, work with DEC's Quality Assurance Officer to modify QAPP until it is approved.	i. QAPP approved - QAPP is approved by DEC's Quality Assurance Officer, and the remaining Work Plan Objectives can move forward.

Permit Requirements that may apply to your project:

Overview and links to permits that may be required (from DEC Division of Environmental Permits):
- https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/environmental-permits/forms-requirements
- https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/environmental-permits/forms-requirements/jurisdictions-other-agencies

A Freshwater Wetlands Permit is required to conduct any regulated activity in a jurisdictional New York State freshwater wetland or its adjacent area. For more information, visit: https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/wetlands/freshwater-wetlands-program.

A Tidal Wetlands Permit is required to conduct any regulated activity in a jurisdictional New York State tidal wetland or its adjacent area For more information, visit: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/tidal-wetlands-permit-program.

A Protection of Waters Stream Disturbance permit is required to physically disturb the bed or banks (up to 50 feet from stream) of any streams identified as “protected,” and a permit for **Excavation and Fill in Navigable Waters** for any excavation or fill below the mean high-water line of any waterbodies and contiguous wetlands identified as “navigable.” Any structures on, in or over waterbodies may require a **Docks and Moorings permit**. For more information, visit: https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/waterways-coastlines-wetlands/protection-of-waters-program.

Most of the underwater lands of the Hudson River are the property of the State of New York. Administration of the lands underwater is the responsibility of the Office of General Services and a license or **permit may be required for installation of a structure on or over NYS-owned lands underwater** (https://ogs.ny.gov/real-estate/lands-now-or-formerly-underwater). If an OGS permit or license is required, then a Docks and Moorings permit is waived.

Any work within Waters of the United States or associated wetlands may require a permit from the **Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404** of the Clean Water Act). If a Section 404 permit is required, then a **Section 401 Water Quality Certification** is required. Issuance of these certifications in New York is delegated to DEC. All of these projects are in the Coastal Management Zone and if a federal permit is required, then a **Coastal Consistency determination** by NYS Department of State, Office of Planning & Development will be required. https://dos.ny.gov/coastal-consistency-review-federal-agency-actions.

Any work in the vicinity of known occurrences of threatened or endangered species may require a **permit for Incidental Taking** (https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/biodiversity-species-conservation/endangered-species/regulations); this includes loss of habitat and interference with essential behaviors such as nesting or foraging. Measures to avoid a take may be required.

A local Floodplain Development Permit may be required for a project that occurs in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated regulatory floodway. This permit may require a hydrological and hydraulic (H&H) analysis conducted by a professional engineer demonstrating the proposed project will have 0.00 feet of rise in the base flood elevation when comparing pre- and post-project conditions. If the rise cannot be mitigated, a FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) would be required. Floodplain and floodway maps are available from the FEMA Flood Map Service Center: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home. Additional guidance and information for meeting this requirement is available at: https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/wqip-program.

Appendix III: Bid Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

PROJECT PASS/FAIL CRITERIA: a "Fail" to any statement will disqualify the Bid

- The Bidder must be eligible, as shown on page 4 of this RFA. A not-for-profit organization must also be prequalified in SFS Grants Management by the bid due date to be determined eligible under this grant opportunity.
- Location: The project must be located within the defined geographic boundaries of this RFA (see maps in Appendix I). The bidder must provide GPS coordinates of the subject barrier(s), and a map and photos of the current location and condition of the site, uploaded to SFS Grants Management.
- Floodplain projects: If the project is wholly or partially in a 0.2% (500 year) or 1% (100 year) annual chance of occurrence floodplain, attach the applicable floodplain map with the location of the project indicated. Instructions for floodplain location determination: https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/floodplainmapinstructions.pdf and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZne-tThzYI
- Projects must include consultation with Estuary Program Staff for project management purposes as step one in the timeline (e.g. a project kick-off meeting).
- Projects must implement one of the eligible project types identified in this RFA.
- The uploaded project timeline indicates completion on or before August 31, 2030.
- The project must be located on a perennial stream.
- Crossing replacement projects must be designed to pass, at a minimum, a 1% annual chance storm (100-year flood).
- All project funding sources are eligible as defined in this RFA and at least 10% in eligible match is identified.
- If applicable, letters of collaboration are provided from all Bidder partners, which must include "Lead" Bidder designation.
- Proof of property ownership or landowner permission must be provided as an upload to the Bid, as outlined in "Required Permissions" (see page 16).
- The Bidder must provide the required certification for sexual harassment prevention ("Attachment S"), as required by State Finance Law §139-l.
- The Bidder must provide the required EO 16 Certification.
- The Bidder must provide the required Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification ("Attachment G") as required by State Finance Law §139-m.
- Bid completeness: Bidders must complete the electronic bid and upload any required documentation. See the checklist in this RFA as a reference.

I. PROJECT TYPE, OBJECTIVES, AND METHODS (scoring criteria in no particular order)

Scoring Criteria 1: Project Type and Objectives (maximum 15 points):

How well do the goals of the project align with the primary objectives of this RFA, to restore free-flowing waters to benefit stream habitat, aquatic connectivity, and resilience in tributary streams of the Estuary?

- Project will implement the removal a dam or road/stream crossing barrier. Project type 1, 4, & 6 ..... 15 Points
- Project will provide shovel ready designs to remove a dam or design plans for mitigating a road/stream crossing barrier. Project type 2 & 5 ..... 10 Points
- Project will provide reconnaissance study on the feasibility of the removal of a dam. Project type 3 ..... 7 Points

Scoring Criteria 2: Species Benefit (maximum 10 points):

How well does the project location align with the primary objectives of this RFA, to conserve and restore habitat primarily for migratory fishes (e.g., American eel, river herring, or sea lamprey), with a secondary priority for resident fish and wildlife (e.g., river corridor species)?

- Project location(s) includes the first upstream (lowest on tributary) artificial barrier on a Hudson River tributary, impacting the upstream movement of migratory species from the Hudson into the tributary. ..... 10 Points
- Project location(s) is upstream of the first artificial barrier (lowest downstream) on a tributary, but has a high likelihood to benefit migratory species because of either documented occurrence data or low severity of downstream barriers ..... 7 Points
- Project location(s) is in the Hudson Estuary watershed and primarily benefits resident species, with questionable and undocumented benefits to migratory species such as American eel. ..... 3 Points

Scoring Criteria 3: Habitat Benefit (maximum 10 points):

How much stream habitat is extended by implementing the project, thereby increasing passability for aquatic organisms?

- Stream habitat is increased by 3 miles or more ..... 10 Points
- Stream habitat is increased by 1 mile or more, but less than 3 miles ..... 7 Points
- Stream habitat is increased by more than 500 feet, but less than 1 mile ..... 5 Points
- Stream habitat is increased by 500 feet or less ..... 3 Points
- Projects that propose reconnaissance, feasibility, and outreach at multiple locations without proposing to design or remove a barrier ..... 2 Points

Scoring Criteria 4: Methodology (maximum 12 points):

How does the project methodology align with the primary objectives of this RFA; is there sufficient detail provided to meet the required deliverables?

- The project is thoroughly planned and proposes effective approach ..... 12 Points
- The project is adequately planned and proposes acceptable approach ..... 8 Points
- The project methods or workplan are missing some important details, or flawed in some way that may affect meeting the project objective ..... 3 Points
- The project is inadequately described and/or proposes questionable approach or methods and/or the project is not demonstrated to be feasible and/or Bid does not provide adequate information to determine feasibility ..... 0 Points

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II. PROJECT SUCCESS FACTORS

Scoring Criteria 5: Local Support and Implementation Commitment (maximum 10 points):

How well does the project demonstrate the support of local officials, adjoining landowners and other stakeholders whose support is essential for the project to succeed? Does the Bid demonstrate support as described below? Have concerns from potential upstream and downstream project opponents been addressed through outreach and engagement? Do projects demonstrate support and commitment to implement?

- Local support indicates project success is very likely and is thoroughly documented. Letters of support **include** letters from:
    - adjoining property owner(s) (landowner letters clearly identify the applicable property); **AND**
    - the top local elected official; **AND**

- other stakeholders such as upstream and downstream landowners, other municipal leaders, highway departments, sporting/hunting associations, engaged stakeholder organizations.

Project also demonstrates a clear path to implementation. ..... 10 points

- Local support indicates project success is very likely and is thoroughly documented. Letters of support **include** letters from:
  - adjoining property owners (landowner letters clearly identify the applicable property); **OR**
  - the top local elected official; **OR**
  - other stakeholders such as upstream and downstream landowners, other municipal leaders, highway departments, sporting/hunting associations, engaged stakeholder organizations.

  Project also demonstrates a clear path to implementation. ..... 7 points
- Letters are not provided, but acceptable support and engagement strategies are demonstrated, and local stakeholders are identified in the narratives, indicating project success is likely and plans are likely to be implemented ..... 3 points
- Known, crucial local stakeholders are not engaged, or local support appears insufficient to assure project success, and/or Bid does not identify a commitment to implement the project ..... 0 points

Scoring Criteria 6: Outreach and Engagement (maximum 5 points):

Does the project include outreach or training to help the public engage with the proposed plans, designs or projects, that will likely contribute to success of the project? Such outreach should address social, environmental and economic benefits, such as enhanced recreational opportunities, increased property values, ecosystem and habitat improvements, or reduction of flood risk, etc.

- The Bid work plan and project timeline describe multiple outreach and/or training activities on social, environmental and economic benefits that will likely contribute to success of the project ..... 5 points
- At least one acceptable outreach or training activity is described in the Bid work plan and project timeline ..... 2 points
- No ..... 0 points

Scoring Criteria 7: Knowledge, Skills and/or Experience (maximum 8 points):

Does the Bidder demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and/or track record to successfully undertake a project of this nature? Does the Bidder demonstrate experience with and understanding of aquatic organism passage? Experience and track record include performance on current and prior Estuary grants, including quality and timeliness of grant reporting, progress on performance schedules, and completion of deliverables.

- Exceptionally well qualified and/or superior track record for this type of project ..... 8 points
- Very well qualified and/or established track record for this type of project ..... 6 points
- Qualified and/or satisfactory track record ..... 4 points
- Not well qualified and/or has a poor track record ..... 0 points

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III. PROJECT COST EFFECTIVENESS

Scoring Criteria 8: How well does the budget demonstrate value for cost?

Cost effectiveness will be evaluated from the standpoint of both cost match, balance, and value. Bidders may compare the project costs to other similar work and explain the balance of expenses across budget categories. If applicable, provide justification for costs that exceed what is customary for the work to be completed. To sufficiently respond to this question, Bidders are encouraged to upload documentation to support specific budget items, such as standard government wage rates, current market prices for equipment, and cost-estimates from potential contractors / vendors.

Scoring Criteria 8.A. Project Cost Effectiveness and Funding, Budget balance and cost-benefit ratio: How well does the budget demonstrate value for cost?

- Budget is well-balanced and does not contain any extraneous expenses. Cost-to-benefit ratio is exceptional for the complexity and size of the project, compared to other similar projects ..... 10 points
- Budget is well-balanced and does not contain any extraneous expenses. Cost-to-benefit ratio is appropriate for the complexity and size of the project ..... 7 points
- Budget appears well-balanced, but cost-to-benefit ratio is unclear or not well-defined for the complexity and size of the project ..... 3 points
- Budget does not appear to be cost effective or well-aligned with the project as proposed, and/or the budget contains ineligible expenses ..... 0 points

Scoring Criteria 8.B. Project Cost Effectiveness and Funding, Budget detail: Does the budget detail adequately reflect and correspond to the work needed to produce the deliverables?

- The budget contains an exceptional level of detail to assess cost effectiveness, including explanation for each line item, documentation for cost estimates and contractor quotes, where applicable, and explanation of staff time dedicated to the project ..... 5 points
- The budget contains sufficient level of detail to assess cost effectiveness, but is missing some details ..... 3 points
- The budget contains an inadequate level of detail to assess cost effectiveness ..... 0 points

Scoring Criteria 8.C. Project Cost Effectiveness and Funding, Additional match: How much match is contributed in the Bid?

- Funds above and beyond the minimum match are provided (total of 15% match or more) ..... 5 points
- Project meets minimum match requirement (10%) ..... 0 points

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IV. STATEWIDE PRIORITY POINTS

Scoring Criteria 9: Regional Economic Development Plan:

Has the Bidder demonstrated the project implements part of a Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Plan?

- If yes, add ..... 5 points

Scoring Criteria 10: Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities:

Will the proposed project benefit a Potential Environmental Justice Area and/or a Disadvantaged Community, and is the benefit to the population(s) documented?

- If yes, add ..... 5 points

TOTAL ELIGIBLE POINTS ..... 100 points

Appendix IV: Reporting on Measures of Success

As part of reporting requirements for a grant under this RFA, grantees will be expected to report on how their project is helping to achieve the Measures of Success outlined in the *2026-2030 Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda*. Measures of Success, by Goal, are bulleted below. Goal(s) that apply to this specific grant opportunity are highlighted in yellow.

A Vital River Ecosystem

1. Goal: Robust estuarine fisheries
    - EF1: Three actions from ASMFC Atlantic sturgeon assessment priority recommendations will be implemented, and an abundance index is developed annually and used to complete a population analysis.
    - EF2: Monitoring of acoustic-tagged shortnose sturgeon will be used to minimize impacts to the species.
    - EF3: River herring populations will be sustainable through the implementation of the NYS-approved ASMFC Sustainable Fishery Management Plan for New York River Herring Stocks.
    - EF4: Five actions in the Shad Recovery Plan are implemented.
    - EF5: An index of abundance for the Hudson River striped bass spawning stock will be developed and incorporated into ASMFC management. Factors contributing to the recent decline of striped bass populations have been determined. Continued implementation of the community science cooperative angler program will help collect data on recreational use of the resource and develop regulations.
    - EF6: Progress towards sustainable management of Hudson River blue crabs.
    - EF7: Contaminants (PCBs, dioxins, cadmium, mercury) in fish will approach a level that is safe for human consumption, as established by the NYS Department of Health (DOH).
    - EF8: Impacts of non-native and invasive taxa will be minimized through preventive measures such as education, outreach, regulatory efforts, and control projects.
    - EF9: An assessment of impacts of bycatch of select Hudson River fish occurring in ocean fisheries will be completed and actions to reduce impacts to the recovery of signature Hudson River fish will be identified.
    - EF10: All industrial and municipal facilities operating water intakes on the estuary will have minimized mortality to all life stages of fish.
    - EF11: Data from eel monitoring efforts are incorporated into future stock assessments and used to support fisheries management decisions and at least two migratory habitat enhancement projects.

2. Goal: Robust river habitats
    - RH1: The Hudson River Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force's priority lists and resources will be used to monitor and manage invasive species to protect native plant and animal communities. Partner programs within the Task Force will manage or prevent the establishment of at least five invasive species on the Task Force's priority list.
    - RH2: Habitat value has been increased for at least 1 mile of shoreline, and at least 75% of permitted shoreline projects will incorporate sustainable shoreline BMPs.
    - RH3: Intertidal, shallow water (less than 6 ft deep at low tide), and benthic habitats will be increased by 15 acres through restoration and enhancement, and an additional 15

acres of habitat restorations will be designed with bid documents and all necessary permits.
- RH4: Three hundred seventy-five acres of floodplain pathway for wetland migration will be conserved or protected to provide future habitat in response to sea level rise.
- RH5: Contaminated sites in the Hudson will be prioritized for remediation and restoration using geospatial data on contaminants and fish and wildlife habitats.
- RH6: Ten new acres of deep (greater than 6 ft at low tide) benthic habitat will be enhanced and/or restored.

3. Goal: Clean Hudson River water
    - CW1: The water quality assessment for the lower Hudson River will be updated based on new monitoring by DEC and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and results will be communicated to the public.
    - CW2: A study will be underway to understand possible impacts of future salt-front shifts to water supply resilience and fisheries.
    - CW3: HRECOS will be evaluated and updates will be assessed so that the system is incorporated into all Hudson River estuary monitoring programs by researchers to evaluate river conditions and used by educators to communicate the value of the Hudson River.

A Thriving & Resilient Watershed

1. Goal: Healthy tributaries
    - HT1: Ten monitoring projects that support community interests to better understand ambient water quality conditions in tributaries will be completed
    - HT2: Ten municipalities or watersheds will have new or updated road-stream crossing management plans, riparian assessment plans, or dam removal reconnaissance and feasibility plans that include priority actions.
    - HT3: Five or more new miles of streamside vegetation will be planted through the Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs program, with least 5 miles of the 30 miles planted since 2007 demonstrating effective riparian buffer function.
    - HT4: Twenty miles of stream will be restored through at least 10 projects that reconnect habitat and improve stream integrity through dam removal and culvert replacement.
    - HT5: Fifteen local projects addressing priority actions identified in source water protection plans or relevant drinking watershed-based studies or plans will be completed, with 35% in or serving PEJAs or DACs.
    - HT6: Ten watersheds will have one or more of the following studies, plans, or policies created: a watershed-based characterization, flood mitigation study, flood mitigation plan, or intermunicipal cooperative agreement.

2. Goal: Climate-adaptive communities
    - CC1: 100 CSC adaptation and resilience actions will be completed and 150 municipalities will have completed a CSC adaption or resilience action since 2021.
    - CC2: 25 Climate Change Adaptation and resilience plans or adaptation chapters in a climate action plan will be completed, with 9 (35%) plans in or serving PEJAs or DACs.
    - CC3: 25 practices, plans, policies, or projects will be implemented locally to reduce flood vulnerabilities.
    - CC4: Five municipalities will develop conceptual designs to enhance waterfront resilience (CaD Phase II or a similar process).

- CC5: Five climate-adaptive shoreline projects will be implemented to increase Hudson River waterfront resilience to sea level rise and flooding.

3. Goal: Conserved natural areas
   - CA1: Five new connectivity planning projects will be completed to support landscape-scale conservation, regional biodiversity priorities, and habitat connections.
   - CA2: 5 municipalities in the Hudson River estuary watershed will establish new local conservation financing programs (e.g., Community Preservation Act or open space bond) for the protection of priority lands and waters, and 50% of municipalities with conservation financing established since 2021 will have made successful acquisitions.
   - CA3: New or updated conservation practices, plans, and policies will be completed in 25 municipalities, including at least 10 located in Significant Biodiversity Areas, on the estuary shoreline or in other areas identified as conservation priorities and at least 9 (35%) in or serving PEJAs or DACs.
   - CA4: Fifty percent of municipalities with NRIs completed since 2015 will use their NRIs for a conservation plan or policy (e.g., open space plan or conservation overlay zone) or comprehensive plan.

People Living Well with Nature

1. Goal: An informed and engaged public
   - EP1: Effective curricula and programs will engage 125,000 students, educators, and volunteers within the school districts and communities of the Hudson River Watershed and NY–NJ Harbor area
   - EP2: Ten or more locally based facilities for learning about the river will be enhanced with state-of-the-art exhibits and improved programs, materials, field trips, hands-on learning modules, and visitor experiences.
   - EP3: At least 35% of participants engaging in education programs delivered by the Hudson River Estuary Management Program or through grants and technical assistance to partners will be from DACs or PEJAs—an increase over the 25% since 2020 baseline.
   - EP4: At least 10,000 people will participate in community science and/or public programs focused on the Hudson River and its watershed.
   - EP5: At least 80% of educators annually participating in Hudson River Estuary Program trainings (including Teachers on the Estuary) will use our professional development content in their classrooms.
   - EP6: Annually, at least three programs will continue to be supported that build student engagement through intensive research programs for young adults, such as TIDES—inspiring a more diverse conservation movement.
   - EP7: Ten Programs will be piloted and curricula will be developed or updated to align with NYS standards and to introduce youth to their drinking water sources and the watershed management that goes into protecting drinking water, drinking water treatment processes, wastewater treatment processes, and the careers associated with those functions.
2. Goal: An accessible Hudson River Estuary for all
   - AR1: General access and/or Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility will be improved at a minimum of 10 sites along the Hudson River estuary and tidal tributaries, with 50% serving PEJAs or DACs (geographically or programmatically).
   - AR2: Ecologically sound flood-resiliency plans have been developed for 10 access sites in the anticipated 100-Year floodplain, with 50% located in PEJAs or DACs. Implementation of resilience projects will be underway at three new sites by 2030.

- AR3: An updated swimming-access feasibility study will be completed, vulnerabilities at existing Hudson River beaches will be assessed, and planning for at least one new swimming area improvement on the Hudson River will be initiated, and planning for at least one new swimming area improvement on the Hudson River will be initiated.

Appendix V: ELAP AND QAPP Requirement Worksheet

This worksheet is required to be uploaded in SFS Grants Management for all applications.
If you answer "no" to the first question, you do not need to complete the remainder of the form.
https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quality/assurance

1. ELAP Requirements (Part 1): Does your project include any water quality monitoring requirements?

   ☐ YES ☐ NO – If no, you do not need to continue filling out this worksheet.

2. ELAP Requirements (Part 2): Do the parameters being monitored have New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) certified methods?

   ☐ YES ☐ NO – If the answer to this Question is "No," itemize the parameters being monitored in the text field below.

   Click or tap here to enter text.

3. ELAP Requirements (Part 3): Are you using a laboratory certified by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) under the Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP)?

   ☐ YES – Provide the ELAP Certified Lab information: Click or tap here to enter text.

   ☐ NO – If the answer to this Question is "No," explain in the text field below. Note a project will not be eligible for funding if a NYSDOH certified laboratory is not used when testing parameters that have ELAP certified methods.

   Click or tap here to enter text.

4. QAPP Requirements: Does your project include a monitoring component?

   ☐ YES ☐ NO

   If the answer to this Question is "Yes," a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is required for the project. You may submit a QAPP as an upload under the appropriate Vendor Bid Factor in SFS Grants Management, or you may include QAPP development as the first deliverable in the Work Plan. A template for the QAPP is provided in SFS Grants Management, and also is available at https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quality/assurance.

5. Have you uploaded the QAPP for your project in SFS Grants Management, or included the QAPP as the first deliverable in the Work Plan?

   ☐ YES ☐ NO

Appendix VI: Documentation of initial reconnaissance of dam removal

For Dam Removal Initial Reconnaissance and Risk Assessment to Determine Project Complexity

1. Dam name & owner(s)

2. Dam's current purpose & location

3. Land ownership around impoundment (refer to tax parcel maps if necessary)

4. Ecological benefits of removal

5. Community benefits of removal

6. Existing dam issues (dam safety reports, current structural deficiencies, etc.)

7. Infrastructure issues: does the dam or its removal have any known implications for nearby critical infrastructure such as bridges, roads, or utilities)

8. Rare species or habitats that may be impacted by removal (refer to the Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper)

9. Historical or cultural resources: are there any historic resources at the project site that may be impacted by dam removal; consider evaluating historic resource impacts using the Cultural Resource Information System web tool or by contacting the State Historic Preservation Office at 518-268-2166).

10. Sediment quality and quantity: Although laboratory analysis of impoundment sediments and a rough estimate of the total volume of impoundment sediments would be ideal (see Appendix VII for a list of recommended analytes and associated toxicity thresholds), for the initial reconnaissance stage, consideration of current/past upstream land uses that may be contaminant sources or reference to existing WQ data is sufficient. Bidders should consider consulting the DECinfo Locator to evaluate potential upstream contaminant sources paying special attention to the following layers: Hazardous Waste Treatments; Storage & Disposal Sites; Active Landfills; Inactive Solid Waste Landfills; Vehicle Dismantling Facilities; Petroleum Bulk Storage Facilities; Major Oil Storage Facilities; Chemical Bulk Storage Facilities, Permitted and Reclaimed Mines; Oil, Gas and Other Regulated Wells; and Environmental Cleanup sites (e.g., Active, Closed, Sediment Caps).

11. Community concerns (documenting any initial perceived or known concerns or support from the surrounding or downstream community)

Appendix VII: Sediment Sampling

The following information is provided to guide Bidders through preliminary sediment sampling. Additional sampling may be required by NYSDEC.

The necessity and thoroughness of sediment sampling is highly site-specific. In cases where impounded sediments are coarse (i.e. >90% sand & gravel), sediment sampling may not be required. Likewise, it may not be necessary to sample sediments at very small dams & impoundments with negligible sediment volumes have accumulated (<100yds^3). The US Bureau of Reclamation suggests that impoundments have negligible sediment volume if the following two criteria are met:

- The normal reservoir width (W_{res}) is not more than 1.5 times the typical river width (W_{ch}) in an alluvial reach of stream: $W_{res} \leq 1.5\ W_{ch}$

- The hydraulic height of the dam (H_{dam}) (reservoir water surface elevation minus the downstream river water surface elevation) is not more than the typical bankfull depth (H) of the stream channel in an alluvial reach: $H_{dam} \leq H_{bank}$

Bidders are encouraged to collect and analyze sediments for dam removal projects with significant fine-grained sediments and a reasonable probability of contamination. This includes at least 3 sediment cores collected from the impoundment (to depth of refusal), as well as one additional surficial sample both upstream and downstream of the impoundment. Upstream and downstream samples should be taken outside the influence of the dam and biased towards areas of fine sediment deposition. The exact number and location of sediment samples should be determined during the permit pre-application meeting in consultation with NYSDEC. Bidders are encouraged to refer to the USFWS Standard Operating Procedures for Sediment Sampling Behind Dams and the NYSDEC Screening and Assessment of Contaminated Sediment documents for guidance on sediment collection methods. Lab analyses should be performed by a laboratory certified by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) under the Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) pursuant to Public Health Law 502 (unless no ELAP certificate is issued for a specific parameter).

The following recommended parameters and threshold values are published in the Screening and Assessment of Contaminated Sediment guidance document and the NYSDEC Soil Remediation Tables, which determines restrictions for upland disposal of sediments. To help determine the feasibility of mobilizing impoundment sediments downstream (which can greatly reduce project cost), Bidders are encouraged to compare lab results to any existing sediment quality data from the proposed receiving waterbody, which may be the Hudson mainstem itself. Historic sediment quality data for the Hudson River mainstem can be accessed by consulting the attribute data for the nearest sampling point in the "Hudson River Estuary Sediments" point shapefiles available at: https://data.gis.ny.gov/.

Recommended parameters and threshold values for preliminary sediment sampling (published in the Screening and Assessment of Contaminated Sediment guidance and the 6 NYCRR Part 375 Soil Remediation Tables.

Parameter		Ecological SGV (aquatic) NYSDEC Screening and Assessment of Contaminated Sediment (mg/kg)			Public Health, Ecological and Groundwater SCO (soil) NYSDEC NY CRR Part 375 (mg/kg)				
		Class A Threshold	Class B Threshold	Class C Threshold	Residential	Restricted Residential	Protection of Ecological Resources	Protection of Groundwater	Unrestricted Use
Metals	Arsenic	10	10-33	33	16	16	13	16	13
	Cadmium	1	1-5	5	2.5	2.5	4	7.5	2.5
	Chromium	43	43-110	110	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Copper	32	32-150	150	280	280	50	1720	50
	Lead	36	36-130	130	400	400	63	450	63
	Mercury	0.2	0.2-1	1	0.3	0.3	0.18	0.73	0.18
	Nickel	23	23-49	49	320	320	30	130	30
	Zinc	120	120-460	460	1300	6600	109	2480	109
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	2,3,7,8-TCDD and equivalent	0.0005	0.0005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Benzene	530	530-1,900	1,900	1200	3700	70000	60	60
Pesticides	4,4' - DDE	NA	NA	NA	780	3400	3.3	9300	3.3
	4,4' - DDT	NA	NA	NA	780	3800	3.3	135000	3.3
	4,4' - DDD	NA	NA	NA	1200	5000	3.3	14000	3.3
	Sum of DDT + DDD + DDE	44	44-48,000	48,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Dieldrin	180	180-780	780	17	75	6	100	5
	Lindane	47	47-78	78	50	210	6000	50	25
	Mirex	120	120	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	Total PCBs	100	100-1,000	1,000	1000	1000	NA	NA	100
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	Total PAHs	4,000	4,000-35,000	35,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Physical Analysis	Grain Size Analysis								
	Total Organic Carbon (%)								
	Bulk Density								
	Solids, Total (per sample)								

Include the following PAHs when calculating the sum of PAHs: Acenaphthene, Acenaphthylene, Anthracene, Benz(a)anthracene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(k)fluoranthene, Benzo(g,h,i)perylene, Benzo(a)pyrene, 2-Chloronaphthalene, Chrysene, Dibenz(a,h)anthracene, Fluoranthene, Fluorene Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)-pyrene, 2-Methylnaphthalene, Naphthalene, Phenanthrene, and Pyrene.

The sum of the concentrations of these eighteen PAH analytes are used to calculate the sum of PAH. If one or more analytes are missing from the list, sum the remaining analytes for the calculation of sum of PAH. Individual PAHs listed above should be reported by the lab individually and as a sum.

A rough estimate of the total volume of the impoundment sediment (V_{sed}) can be estimated by computing the area of the deposit and multiplying it by half the estimated maximum depth of the impoundment (H_{max}, typically near the dam) measured via soundings (USBR – Dam Removal Analysis Guidelines).

Area can be computed by multiplying the length of the deposit (L_D) times its width (W_D) or by measuring the surface area of the deposit/impoundment (using GIS software or Google Earth):

$$V_{sed} = \left(\frac{H_{max}}{2}\right) L_D W_D$$

After a Bidder receives funding, a preapplication meeting, with the Division of Environmental Permits, is required for Planning projects (Type 2), and is encouraged as one of the concluding steps of Initial Reconnaissance projects (Type 4). The purpose of the pre-application meeting is to clarify the sampling, testing, and permitting and/or regulatory procedures at the earliest stage of project development. Pre-application meetings can be more productive and informative, if Bidders are able to provide the results of initial sediment testing.

Refer to Section 18. Quality Assurance (Required for Water Quality or Sediment Assessment and Monitoring projects) for sediment monitoring quality requirements.

Appendix VIII: Credit Sign Requirements

NYS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND
Hudson River Estuary Management Program

Size: Horizontal format - 24" wide by 18" high or as appropriate to sign location

Construction Materials: Aluminum blank sign boards with vinyl sheeting

Inserts: "Project Site Name," "Local Project Sponsor" indicate position, size and topography for specific project names and sponsor to be inserted.

Color Scheme:

NYS logo and text – "DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION" - Pantone 350 C

Text:	Environmental Protection Fund	PMS 3005 C
	Hudson River Estuary Management Program	PMS 3005 C
	Project Site Name/Local Project Sponsor	Pantone 350 C

Type Specifications: All type is Arial 540, with the exception of the logo type.
Format is: center each line of copy with small caps and initial caps.

Production Notes: 24" wide by 18" high (or as appropriate to sign location)
Aluminum blanks will be covered with vinyl sheeting to achieve background color. Copy and logo will be silk screened on this surface.

Grant recipients must provide a project site name, and the local project sponsor to be inserted on the sign.

Example Sign:

Appendix IX: Certification for Sexual Harassment Prevention

Attachment S

Sexual Harassment Prevention Certification Form

By submission of this bid, each Bidder and each person signing on behalf of any Bidder certifies, and in the case of a partnering bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that the Bidder has and has implemented a written policy addressing sexual harassment prevention in the workplace and provides annual sexual harassment prevention training to all of its employees. Such policy shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements of section two hundred one-g of the labor law.

Company Name:_____

Signature:_____

Print Name and Title:_____

Date:_____

If the above certification cannot be made, the Bidder must submit a signed statement below detailing the reasons why the certification cannot be made.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Company Name:_____

Signature:_____

Print Name and Title:_____

Date:_____

Appendix X: Executive Order 16 Certification

Certification Under Executive Order No. 16 Prohibiting State Agencies and Authorities from Contracting with Businesses Conducting Business in Russia

Executive Order No. 16 provides that "all Affected State Entities are directed to refrain from entering into any new contract or renewing any existing contract with an entity conducting business operations in Russia." The complete text of Executive Order No. 16 can be found here.

The Executive Order remains in effect while sanctions imposed by the federal government are in effect. Accordingly, vendors who may be excluded from award because of current business operations in Russia are nevertheless encouraged to respond to solicitations to preserve their contracting opportunities in case the sanctions are lifted during a solicitation or even after award in the case of some solicitations.

As defined in Executive Order No. 16, an "entity conducting business operations in Russia" means an institution or company, wherever located, conducting any commercial activity in Russia or transacting business with the Russian Government or with commercial entities headquartered in Russia or with their principal place of business in Russia in the form of contracting, sales, purchasing, investment, or any business partnership.

Is Vendor an entity conducting business operations in Russia, as defined above? Please answer by checking one of the following boxes:

☐ 1. No, Vendor does not conduct business operations in Russia within the meaning of Executive Order No. 16.

☐ 2.a. Yes, Vendor conducts business operations in Russia within the meaning of Executive Order No. 16 but has taken steps to wind down business operations in Russia or is in the process of winding down business operations in Russia. (Please provide a detailed description of the wind down process and a schedule for completion.)

☐ 2.b. Yes, Vendor conducts business operations in Russia within the meaning of Executive Order No. 16 but only to the extent necessary to provide vital health and safety services within Russia or to comply with federal law, regulations, executive orders, or directives. (Please provide a detailed description of the services being provided or the relevant laws, regulations, etc.)

☐ 3. Yes, Vendor conducts business operations in Russia within the meaning of Executive Order No. 16.

The undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that they are knowledgeable about the Vendor's business and operations and that the answer provided herein is true to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Vendor Name: (legal entity) _____

By: (signature) _____

Name:_____

Date: _____ _____

Appendix XI: Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification

New York State Finance Law §139-M requires bidders on competitive state procurements to certify that they have a written policy addressing gender-based violence and the workplace and that such policy meets the following minimum requirements:

- **Share Information:** Employers must provide information regarding gender-based violence where employees can see and access it, including displaying the NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline information and a gender-based violence and the workplace poster.
- **Refer Employee-Survivors to Services:** The policy must require that the employer refer employees who disclose current or past victim status to the NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline and/or a local service provider. For bidders outside of New York State, referrals should be made to a local provider or statewide hotline. While referrals are required to be provided by the employer, it is not required for the employee to access services.
- **Prohibit Retaliation:** The policy must clearly state that discrimination or retaliation against employees who identify as victims or survivors of gender-based violence is prohibited.
- **Comply with Laws:** Ensure your policy follows State law. For employers based in New York State, this means that the policy must follow the SAFE Leave Act, New York State Human Rights Law, and any other relevant laws and regulations.
- **Offer Implementation Support:** OPDV is able to assist employers in developing and implementing this policy. Employers must provide information to supervisors and human resources, where available, about this technical assistance from OPDV. OPDV can be contacted at workplace@opdv.ny.gov.

By submission of this bid, each bidder and each person signing on behalf of any bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that the bidder has and has implemented a written policy addressing gender-based violence and the workplace and has provided such policy to all of its employees, directors and board members. Such policy shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements of subdivision 11 of section five hundred seventy-five of the executive law.

Organization's signature below certifies its compliance with State Finance Law §139-M.

Organization: _____

By (signature): _____

Name (Please Print): _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

This form must be signed by an authorized executive or legal representative.

If the organization cannot make the above certification, they must provide an attached statement with their bid detailing the reasons therefor.

Appendix XII: Bid Checklist

- **PASS/FAIL CRITERIA**
  (Check the following boxes (☒) to indicate the item is addressed in the Bid, or is N/A)

1. ☐ Bidder is registered in SFS Grants Management as an eligible Bidder for this program.
2. ☐ *NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS*: Bidder is prequalified in SFS Grants Management by the bid due date.
3. ☐ Project is located within the defined geographical boundaries of this RFA, and a map, and photos of the current location and condition of the site are uploaded.
4. ☐ If the project is wholly or partially in a 0.2% (500 year) or 1% (100 year) annual chance of occurrence floodplain, the applicable floodplain map with the location of the project indicated is uploaded.
5. ☐ Project implements one of the specified eligible project types under the applicable program.
6. ☐ Project workplan includes consultation with Hudson River Estuary Program staff for project management.
7. ☐ Project timeline indicates completion of project objectives, tasks and deliverables within a three-year term.
8. ☐ All project funding sources are eligible as defined in this RFA and at least 10% in eligible match has been identified.
9. ☐ If applicable, letters of collaboration are provided for all Bidder partners.
10. ☐ Property permissions are provided.
11. ☐ Project is located on a perennial stream.
12. ☐ Project is designed to pass a minimum 1% annual chance storm (100-year flood) or better.
13. ☐ The required certification for sexual harassment prevention is uploaded.
14. ☐ The required certification for Executive Order 16 is uploaded.
15. ☐ The required certification for Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace is uploaded.
16. ☐ Bid is complete in SFS Grants Management.

- **FORMS (Program Information, Expenditure-Based budget, and Work Plan)**
  (Check the following boxes (☒) to indicate the item is addressed in the Bid, or is N/A)

1. ☐ Program Information: Project site information is provided, and ALL questions are answered and applicable/required documents are uploaded for each question. (Mandatory)

Mandatory uploads: (All must be in *PDF*)

a. ☐ The Bid Application Form is completed in full and is uploaded in SFS.
b. ☐ Location map showing stream(s) and location(s) to be addressed.
c. ☐ Pictures of the site that establish the current conditions.
d. ☐ A project timeline, showing project start date of September 1, 2027 with a completion date of August 31, 2030.
e. ☐ QAPP Worksheet (applicability)
f. ☐ Documentation of initial reconnaissance for dam removal (HRE Project Type 1)
g. ☐ This *Bid Checklist* is completed and uploaded.

Optional uploads, as applicable: (All must be in *PDF*)

a. ☐ Floodplain map
b. ☐ QAPP document for monitoring projects.
c. ☐ Letters of support as evidence of local stakeholder support.
d. ☐ Documentation (i.e. vendor quotes) for cost-effectiveness.
e. ☐ Letters demonstrating “above and beyond” community support.
f. ☐ Smart Growth Assessment Form

2. ☐ The expenditure-based budget is completed, including justifications for all budget items.
3. ☐ The work plan is provided with clear objectives, tasks, and performance measures.

* ☐ ***CHECK ALL DOCUMENTS AFTER UPLOADING TO ENSURE THE CORRECT DOCUMENT IS UPLOADED.***

Appendix XIII: Bid Application Form (for reference, template is posted in SFS for download)

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM BID FORM
HRE50 TRIBUTARY RESTORATION & RESILIENCY

1. Bidder Eligibility and Contact Details – please list the following: a. Organization Name (lead organization on project) b. Contact Name c. Phone d. Email e. Partner organizations, if applicable Answer: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Is your Organization Prequalified in SFS Grants Management? (Yes/No) Municipalities are not required to be prequalified, and must answer No to this question. Answer: ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Project Type: Proposed projects must implement one of the eligible project types. Identify the proposed project type (number and name), as defined in the RFA. If the proposed project relates to more than one project type noted in the RFA, select the project type that is most relevant to the overall purpose of the project. Answer: Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Project Title: What is the Project Title? This answer must be limited to a maximum of 150 characters. Answer: (click the field below to enter text)
5. Project Summary: Provide a high level summary of the project (IMPORTANT: THIS RESPONSE MUST BE BRIEF - ONLY about 4-5 sentences MAXIMUM), in plain language and acceptable for public release, that includes any combination of the following: (i) the project objective/goal; (ii) project deliverables or expected results; (iii) background of the issue(s) to be addressed (iv) impacted locations; (v) partners to be engaged; (vi) how the funds will support the project (e.g. salary, equipment, GIS services, student support, etc.). Question # 11 below will allow you to elaborate more on the project objective. This question is for a very brief summary ONLY. Answer: (click the field below to enter text)

6. Project Location, Description: Proposed projects must be located within the defined geographic boundaries of the Hudson River Estuary. Provide (i) a description of the project location, (ii) an address (exact or approximate), and (iii) the name of the applicable stream or watershed.

A map must be uploaded under Question #2 “Map of Project Location Upload” in SFS. It is particularly helpful if the map shows (i) the location of downstream dams, road-stream intersections and waterfalls between the project location and the tidal waters, and (ii) the location of the next upstream waterfalls, dams and road-stream intersections from the project location. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF, including any picture file type (JPG, PNG, TIFF, etc.). The upload will not be included in the Bid unless it is a PDF.

Photos of the project location/site must be uploaded under Question #3 “Photos of Project Location/Site Upload” in SFS. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF, including any picture file type (JPG, PNG, TIFF, etc.). The upload will not be included in the Bid unless it is a PDF.

Answer: (4 parts – Part 1 and Part 2, yes/no; Part 3, Counties; Part 4, Description/Narrative)
Part 1, Map:
☐ Yes, a PDF of the Map is uploaded in SFS under Question #2 (required).

Part 2, Photos:
☐ Yes, photos of the project site are uploaded in SFS under Question #3.

Part 3, List the county(ies) where the work will be performed:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Part 4, Description of Project Location:
Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Project Location, Floodplain projects: If the project is wholly or partially in a 0.2% (500 year) or 1% (100 year) annual chance of occurrence floodplain, please explain in the narrative below. Additionally, upload the applicable floodplain map with the location of the project indicated under Question #3 “Floodplain Map Upload” in SFS. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF, including any picture file type (JPG, PNG, TIFF, etc.).

Instructions for floodplain location determination:
https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/floodplainmapinstructions.pdf and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZne-tThzYI

Answer: (2 parts – Part 1, yes/no; Part 2, Narrative)
Part 1, Map:
☐ Yes, a PDF of the Map is uploaded in SFS under Question #3.
☐ No, the project is not wholly or partially located in a 0.2% (500 year) or 1%

(100 year) annual chance of occurrence floodplain. Part 2, Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Project Location, Lat/Long Coordinates: Provide the Latitude and Longitude coordinates for the project location (e.g. 42.652497, -73.748740). If there are multiple locations in the Bid, submit coordinates for each location. Answer: Click or tap here to enter text.
9. Barrier Identification and Habitat Area: Indicate the position of the barrier in terms of its location from tidal waters (first barrier to the tidal water body, second barrier to the tidal water body, third barrier, etc.). Using the upstream barrier(s) and downstream barrier(s) as borders, estimate the (i) number of acres AND/OR (ii) miles of stream that will be reconnected by the project. Note DEC will rely primarily on information provided by the Bidder, but may contribute its own local knowledge when evaluating the answer to this question. Answer: Click or tap here to enter text.
10. Tributary SGCN Species: What species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) will be affected by the project? 1. Herring 2. Eel 3. Both Herring and Eel 4. Other Note DEC will rely primarily on information provided by the Bidder, but will also use reviewer knowledge to determine if the proposed habitat improvement will benefit these species. Answer: Click or tap here to enter text.
11. Project Objective, Methods, and Impact: Describe the objective of the proposed project, project methods and project deliverables. The description must address how the proposed project will conserve and restore habitat for the target species (previously identified in Question 10 above) in the watershed. See the Project Type descriptions in the RFA for any additional narrative requirements. Describe how the project will help achieve one or more Measures of Success as outlined in the 2026-2030 Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda. Action Agenda Measures of Success, by Goal, can be found in Appendix IV of the RFA document. For Road Stream Crossing Project Types 4, 5, and 6: Crossing replacement projects must be designed to pass, at a minimum, a 1% annual chance storm (100-year flood). Identify how the project meets this requirement as part of the

answer to this question.

Answer:
Click or tap here to enter text.

12. Project Timeline: Provide an anticipated timeline to support completion of the project objectives, tasks and deliverables within a three-year contract term. Anticipate a contract start date of September 1, 2027 with an end date of August 31, 2030.

The timeline must include consultation with Estuary Program Staff for project management purposes as step one in the timeline (e.g. a project kick-off meeting). Optional: Bidders are strongly encouraged, but are not required, to invite Estuary Program staff to attend partner or community engagement meetings and to provide technical assistance in the planning process.

The timeline must be uploaded under Question #4 “Timeline Upload” in SFS. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF.

Answer: (2 parts – Part 1, yes/no; Part 2, Narrative)
☐ Yes, a PDF of the Timeline is uploaded in SFS under Question #4.

Narrative for Project Timeline:
Click or tap here to enter text.

13. Letters of Collaboration from Bidder Partners/Co-Bidders: For projects involving a Bidder Partner (i.e. multi-partner and inter-municipal projects), letters substantiating the commitment to collaborate that include the designation of a "Lead" Bidder are required from each partner. All substantiating letters must be provided in SFS at the time of Bid. Bidders must upload, in a single PDF file, a copy of all letters under Question #5 “Letters of Collaboration from Bidder Partners/Co-Bidders Upload” in SFS. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF.

Answer: (2 parts – Part 1, yes/no; Part 2, Narrative)
☐ Yes, a single PDF that includes all letters from Bidder Partners is uploaded in SFS under Question #5.
☐ No, this question is not applicable to the proposed project.

Narrative for Letters of Collaboration:
Click or tap here to enter text.

14. Local Support and Implementation Commitment: Identify local stakeholders whose support may be essential to project success, and describe how their support will contribute to project success and lead the project to implementation.

Letters demonstrating proof of support may be submitted, including letters substantiating implementation commitment for planning projects. Letters must

be provided in SFS at the time of Bid. Bidders must upload, in a single PDF file, a copy of all letters under Question #6 “Local Support and Implementation Commitment Support Letters Upload” in SFS. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF.

Answer: (2 parts – Part 1, yes/no; Part 2, Narrative)
☐ Yes, a single PDF that includes all letters of Local Support and Implementation Commitment is uploaded in SFS under Question #6.
☐ No, letters are not available.

Narrative for Partner and Community Support:
Click or tap here to enter text.

15. Outreach and Engagement: Describe any outreach or training that will be conducted to help the public engage with the proposed plans, designs or projects, that will likely contribute to success of the project? Such outreach should address social, environmental and economic benefits, such as enhanced recreational opportunities, increased property values, ecosystem and habitat improvements, or reduction of flood risk, etc.). Outreach and engagement should also be included in the Work Plan component in SFS, where applicable.

Answer:
Click or tap here to enter text.

16. Permits: If the proposed project includes tasks to prepare materials for permits, permitting activities should be described in the narrative below and appropriate Objective/Task/Performance Measure(s) should be included in the Work Plan component in SFS.

Will permits be required?
Answer:
☐ Yes, and permitting activities are included in the Work Plan.
☐ No, the project doesn’t require permits.

Optional, and if applicable: If work has already started on permits, appropriate documentation can be uploaded under Question #7 “Permits Upload in SFS. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF.

Narrative for Permits:
Click or tap here to enter text.

17. Landowner Permission: Which of the following applies in terms of access to the property impacted by the project?
1. You are the landowner, so documented permission is not required.
2. You are not the landowner, but permission from the landowner is documented (indicating willingness for the project to take place on the property). Appropriate documentation is uploaded in SFS under Question #8.
3. You are not the landowner, but have the legal right to maintain the property.

Appropriate documentation is uploaded in SFS under Question #8.
4. Other - Explain in a few words. Appropriate documentation is uploaded in SFS under Question #8.
5. N/A - Project type does not involve land access.

Answer: (2 parts – Part 1, yes/no; Part 2, Narrative)
☐ The answer to this question is provided in Part 2, Narrative (below) and a single PDF that includes all documentation of landowner permission is uploaded in SFS under Question #8.
☐ Landowner permission is not applicable to the project.

Narrative for Landowner Permission: (Indicate the option that fits your project from bullets 1-5 above)
Click or tap here to enter text.

18. Knowledge, Skills and/or Experience (Qualifications): Describe, in detail, the knowledge, skills and/or experience the Bidder possesses to successfully implement the proposed project. Provide details on Bidder track record for implementing the proposed type of project (including previous grant experience with the Hudson River Estuary Management Program, if any).

Answer:
Click or tap here to enter text.

19. Project Cost Effectiveness and Funding: Describe the cost effectiveness of the proposed project. Identify and describe any aspect of the project that qualifies it as significantly cost effective. List the source(s) and amount of secured funding for the project, including the source(s) and amounts of Match funds. Bidders that provide 15% eligible match or more above the minimum 10% match may be eligible for additional points for cost effectiveness. Reminder - State and/or Federal funding sources are not considered to be eligible forms of Match funds and are not eligible for reimbursement. All documentation supporting cost effectiveness must be provided in SFS at the time of Bid. Bidders must upload, in a single PDF file, a copy of all cost effectiveness documentation under Question #9 “Cost Effectiveness Upload” in SFS. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF.

Answer: (2 parts – Part 1, yes/no; Part 2, Narrative)
☐ Yes, a single PDF that includes all documentation for Cost Effectiveness is uploaded in SFS under Question #9.
☐ No, documentation is not available.

Narrative for Cost Effectiveness:
Click or tap here to enter text.

20. SFS Budget Form Requirement: The expenditure budget must be input in the Budget Details section of the Bid. Refer to the RFA document to ensure the costs proposed in the budget are eligible for both grant and match. At least 10% of matching funds have been identified in the budget, and sources of match are identified in the Match Worksheet (State and/or Federal funding sources are not eligible as provided in the RFA document).

Is the Budget Details section in SFS complete as required?
Answer:
☐ Yes
☐ No

21. SFS Work Plan Requirement: Ensure to complete the Work Plan component of SFS, and include the following items as appropriate: Project objective/method/impact, partner and community support, public engagement methods, engagement opportunities for Estuary Program staff, completing project deliverables, developing a QAPP (if applicable), and the permitting process (if applicable).

Is the Work Plan section in SFS complete as required?
Answer:
☐ Yes
☐ No

22. Quality Assurance and ELAP: Complete the required ELAP and QAPP Worksheet and upload it under Question #10 “Quality Assurance and ELAP Worksheet Upload” in SFS. If ELAP and QAPP do not apply to your project, there is a statement on the worksheet to acknowledge it. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded in SFS. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF.

QAPP: If Question 6 on the ELAP and QAPP Requirement Worksheet is "Yes," then a QAPP is required for the project. If a QAPP is already developed for the project, upload the QAPP under Question #11 “QAPP Upload” in SFS. NOTE: PDF is the only file type that can be uploaded for this question. DO NOT upload a file type other than PDF.

If a QAPP is not yet developed, make sure to include QAPP development as the first deliverable in the Work Plan.

Is a QAPP is required?
Answer:
☐ Yes
☐ No

Narrative for Quality Assurance/ELAP/QAPP:
Click or tap here to enter text.

23. Regional Economic Development Plan: Briefly describe the economic benefits of the proposed project, and how the project aligns with the strategies of the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) plan for the applicable region.

Answer:
Click or tap here to enter text.

24. Environmental Justice/DACs: Describe how the project will benefit minority or low-income populations that experience disproportionate adverse environmental impacts. Include the exact street location, or close approximation, where the project is to be implemented and where the benefit will be provided. If you are unable to determine if the project will benefit an EJ or DAC Community, provide the information requested and a determination will be made during the review process.

Answer: (2 parts – Part 1, yes/no; Part 2, Narrative)
☐ Yes, there is a benefit to an Environmental Justice community/DAC. Additional information about the benefit is provided in the narrative below.
☐ No benefit to an Environmental Justice community/DAC.

Narrative for Environmental Justice/DACs:
Click or tap here to enter text.