



SNEP 2026 Restoration Capital Mini-Grants Request for Proposals (RFP)

Release Date: Aug. 10, 2026

Application Deadline: Sept. 15, 2026

Application Link at End of RFP – Read This First

Overview: SNEP 2026 Restoration Capital Mini-Grants will provide funding up to \$10,000 to support projects that restore clean water, healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities in Southeast New England. The program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through its [Southeast New England Program](#) (SNEP), and is administered by [Restore America's Estuaries](#) (RAE).

Mini-grants may not be used to fund projects or ongoing programs, but will provide reimbursement for one-time expenses. Specifically, the grants are intended to support

- Purchases of equipment and supplies for use in restoration and conservation projects and activities;
- Space rental or other one-time costs for workshops, trainings or similar events;
- One-time costs necessary to develop reports, outreach materials, signs, videos, and other communications products that support restoration and conservation needs.

Applicants will be notified by Oct. 15, 2026 and all expenditures must be complete by Dec. 31, 2026.

Purpose: SNEP has established a vision for our region's environment in 2050. The [SNEP Strategic Plan](#) describes three main goals for achieving this vision:

- A resilient ecosystem of safe and healthy waters;
- Thriving watersheds and natural lands; and
- Sustainable communities.

Purchases funded under the mini-grants program must support work directed at the attainment of these goals within the SNEP Region by eligible organizations. The SNEP Region includes all of Rhode Island and much of Southeastern Massachusetts. [An interactive map of the SNEP Region is available on this page.](#)

Funds available under this program are 100% federal. Through a cooperative agreement between EPA and RAE, grants will be administered and overseen entirely by RAE. All uses of funds must be consistent with federal rules and requirements.

Relationship to SWIG: The SNEP Restoration Capital Mini-Grants program is separate from SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG); however, the source of funding is the same, and both programs are administered by RAE.

Use of Funds: Organizations may request from \$1000 to \$10,000. Purchase procedures must be consistent with federal requirements. For more information, see the RAE Property Management Guide and EPA Procurement guide [on this page](#).

Examples of eligible purchases include:

- Trees or nursery plants for bioretention;
- Soils or fill material;
- Computers, GPS units, cameras or other electronic devices;
- Sondes or other water quality monitoring instruments;
- Boats and motors;
- Erosion control materials;
- Theodolites, total stations or other survey equipment;
- Signs or other outreach materials;
- Mowers, tractors and other small construction or maintenance equipment;
- Engineered stormwater solutions such as tree filter boxes, etc.;
- Workshop and outreach support costs such as space rental, printing, sign production, etc.;
- State sales tax is reimbursable as part of a larger purchase.

Ineligible costs for reimbursement include salary, fringe and indirect costs; however, these costs may be used toward in-kind non-federal match.

Drones are ineligible for purchase under this grant.

Applicants are encouraged to share supplies, equipment and other resources among several organizations, municipalities, etc.; and to partner with other organizations in developing workshops, reports, etc. where appropriate. If hosting a workshop, training or other technical assistance activity, contact the [SNEP Network](#) to explore partnership or assistance opportunities.

An individual grant may include multiple purchases up to the \$10,000 limit. For example, a grant may include a \$6000 equipment purchase as well as \$3000 worth of supplies; or it may include \$10,000 in supplies with individual unit prices less than \$5000 each.

Non-federal match: Non-federal matching funds equivalent to 33% of the award amount is required. Match may be in the form of cash or in-kind (for example, salary, fringe, indirect cost, volunteer hours or mileage). To determine the value of these items in calculating match, see the SWIG Budget Guidance [on this page](#).

Decisions: All award decisions will be made at the sole discretion of Restore America's Estuaries, based on the following criteria and the availability of funding. Funding decisions

are competitive. RAE provides no assurances that any particular application will be funded, nor that funds will be available at the time of any particular application.

Selection Criteria:

1. Importance of Work: Will the requested expenditure directly support work that significantly contributes to the restoration of clean water, healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities in Southeast New England?
2. Necessity: Is the requested expenditure necessary to support this work?
3. Reasonableness: Is the requested amount reasonable in the context of the work and prevailing costs?
4. Schedule: Does the schedule provide confidence that the requested funds will be expended by Dec. 31, 2026?
5. Past Performance: If the organization has a grant or contract history with RAE or its partner organizations, has it fully met the conditions of past or current grant agreements, contracts or other arrangements?
6. Eligibility: Awardees must meet all eligibility requirements at the time of award (see below).

Schedule:

- Applications must be received by **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026.**
- Applicants will be notified by **Oct. 15, 2026.**
- **All expenditures funded under this program must be complete, and reimbursement requests submitted to Restore America's Estuaries (RAE), by Dec. 31, 2026.**

All reimbursable expenditures must be included in a single request; a brief final report, with photos, will be required with the request for reimbursement.

Eligible Organizations: Eligible applicants include state, county and local governments and their subdivisions, tribes, regional planning organizations, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions. Organizations need not be located within the SNEP Region to be eligible for funding, but grant funds must be used exclusively for the purchase of items that will be used within the region, or to support activities within the region. If need be, refer to the map link above to determine whether your work is within the SNEP Region.

SAM Registration: Award recipients must be registered with the Federal System Award Management Registration (SAM) at the time of the award. An account can be created at no cost at sam.gov. If you have not yet registered, you may apply to SAM at the time of application and note that on the Mini-Grants application form where indicated.

SNEP Network: Before submitting requests to fund workshops, trainings or other technical assistance, we recommend contacting the [SNEP Network](#) to ensure coordination with ongoing SNEP activities.

For more information: For all inquiries related to this RFP, contact Tom Ardito, Restore America's Estuaries, tardito@estuaries.org

How to Apply: All applications must be submitted online via the link below. For problems with the online form, contact Tom Ardito. Only one application per organization will be considered.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY TO 2026 SNEP RESTORATION CAPITAL MINI-GRANTS](#)

###END RFP###