
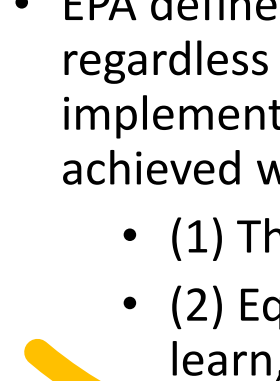


# Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund Informational Webinar



- 
- **The Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF)** is a partnership among:
    - Restore America's Estuaries
    - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
    - Long Island Sound Study (LISS).
  - **Purpose:** To provide technical and financial assistance to environmental justice communities to address environmental issues and improve the quality and accessibility of the Long Island Sound.
  - Funding is provided by EPA through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will help meet the Justice40 Initiative goal which states: "40% of the overall benefits of these Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution."
  - EPA defines environmental justice as, "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:
    - (1) The same degree or protection from environmental and health hazards, and
    - (2) Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work."
- 

# Long Island Sound: The Urban Sea

The Long Island Sound Study formed in 1985, a bi-state partnership of federal and state agencies, user groups, and concerned groups and individuals dedicated to protecting and restoring this vital estuary.

Home to more than 1200 invertebrates, 170 fish species, and dozens of migratory birds; 9 million people on the watershed.



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

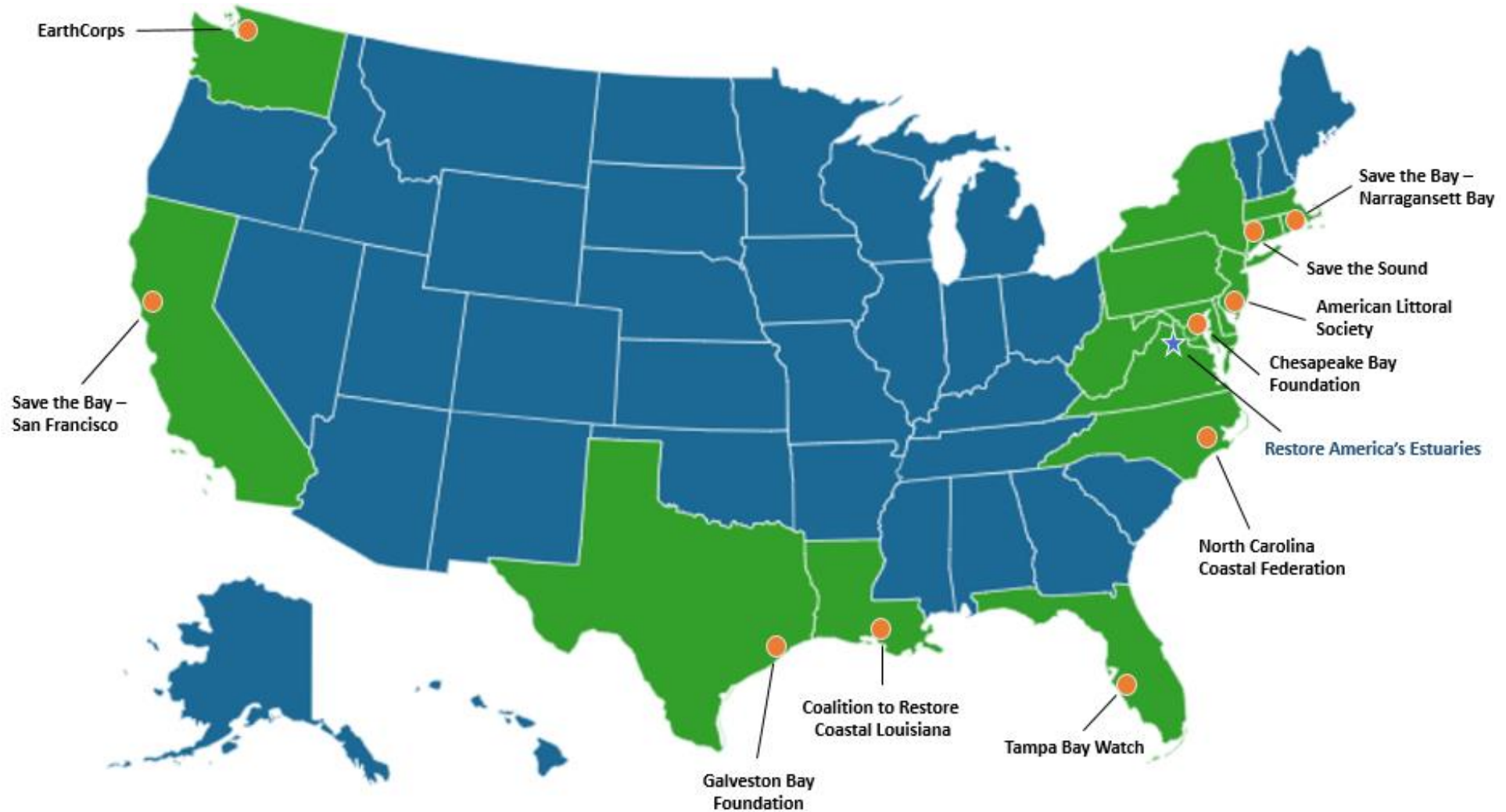


NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



Restore America's Estuaries is dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation



### Affiliate Members

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay | Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership | Audubon Society | Billion Oyster Project | Black in Marine Science | Bonefish & Tarpon Trust | Buzzards Bay Coalition | Choctawatchee Basin Alliance | Clean Foundation | Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation | Ducks Unlimited | Ecosphere Restoration Institute | Environmental Defense Fund | Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Land Trust Alliance | The Nature Conservancy | National Wildlife Federation | Ocean Conservancy | Pontchartrain Conservancy | Restore the Mississippi River Delta | Women's Aquatic Network

# Agenda

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- Overview of the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF)
- Eligibility
- Project Requirements
- Budget
- Application Process & Deadlines
- Resources



# Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) Program Goals

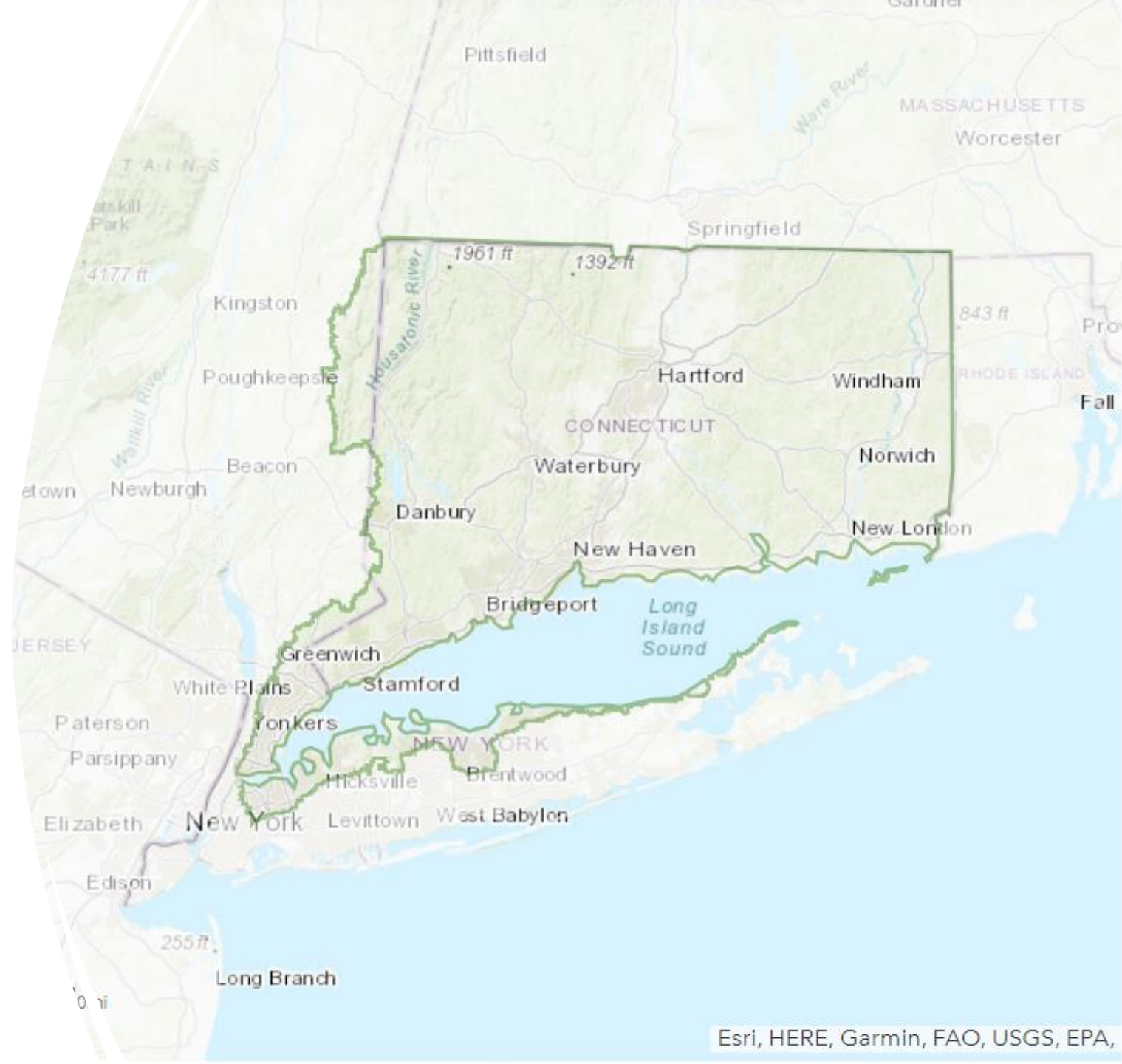
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- Program Overview:
  - For LISCIF 2025 - RAE will award up to \$1,500,000 in federal funds
  - Typical awards will range from about \$5,000 to \$100,000
  - Annual Learning Exchange, including stipends to attend conferences
  - Investment in training programs and grants
  - Prepare local organizations to apply for grant funding through this program and others
  - Strengthen and diversify connections within the Long Island Sound region

# Geographic Eligibility

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- The LISS geographic region refers to the Long Island Sound watershed area within New York and Connecticut for the purpose of this project.
- An interactive map of the region: [ArcGIS - Interactive LISS National Estuary Program Map](#)

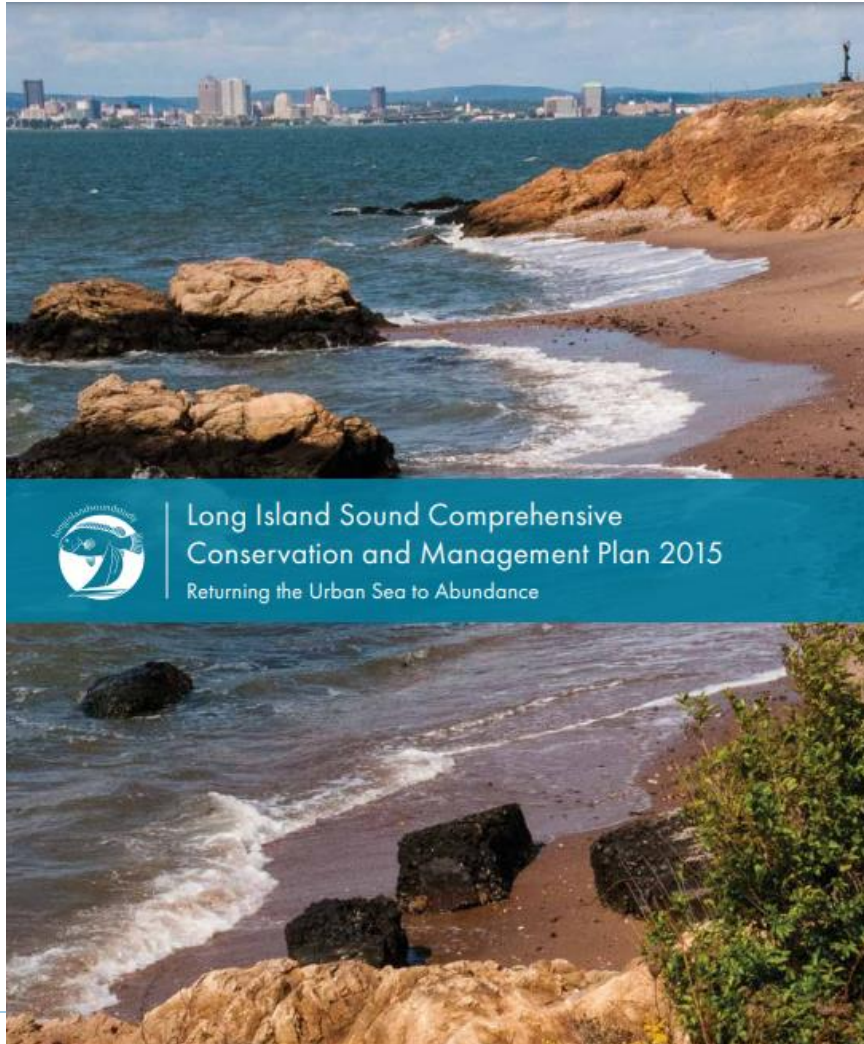


# Applicant Eligibility

- Eligible Applicants include non-profit organizations, Tribes, state, county, local governments, and their subdivisions, and academic institutions.
- Projects funded under LISCIF must address the priorities identified under “Funding Priorities” in the RFA.
- Proposals should target communities experiencing or affected by adverse and disproportionate environmental and human health risks or harms, including affected underserved communities within the LIS geographic boundaries.
- All subaward projects should be community driven or community led.
- Federal agencies are not eligible recipients of funding but may be included as partners in proposals submitted by eligible recipients.
- Organizations may submit multiple LOIs or applications either as a lead organization, or as a partner on another organization’s application. Multiple applications must be submitted separately, and each will be evaluated independent of other proposals.



## Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)



### 4 Themes:

- Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds
- Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife
- Sustainable and Resilient Communities
- Sound Science and Inclusive Management



### Cross-cutting Principles:

- Long-term sustainability
- Climate Resiliency
- Environmental Justice

# Themes and Goals of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Source: <https://longislandsoundstudy.net/our-vision-and-plan/>



Source: CCMP, Great Gull Island supports the largest nesting populations of common terns in the world. (Photo by Venu Challa)



## Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds

The goal of this theme is to improve water quality by reducing contaminant and nutrient loads from the land and waters impacting the Long Island Sound.

Source: CCMP, The Lower Connecticut River, a Long Island Sound Stewardship Area, Old Lyme, CT. (Photo by Jerry Monkman/Ecophotography)

## Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

The goal of this theme is to restore and protect the Sound's ecological balance in a healthy, productive, and resilient state of benefit both people and the natural environment.



## Sustainable and Resilient Communities

The goal of this theme is to support vibrant, informed, and engaged communities that use, appreciate, and help protect Long Island Sound.

Source: CCMP, Youth from Rocking the Boat, a Bronx environmental organization, on board a student-built boat on the Bronx River. (Photo by Joaquin Cotten)

Source: CCMP, CTDEEP Scientists conduct trawl surveys of the Sound's marine life, including horseshoe crabs, on board the Research Vessel John Dempsey. (Photo by Richard Howard)



## Sound Science and Inclusive Management

The goal of this theme is to manage Long Island Sound using sound science and cross jurisdictional governance that is inclusive, adaptive, innovative, and accountable.

# Program Priorities

## Alignment with the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

### Main Funding Themes:

Clean Waters & Healthy Watersheds

Thriving Habitats & Abundant Wildlife

Sustainable & Resilient Communities

Sound Science & Inclusive Management

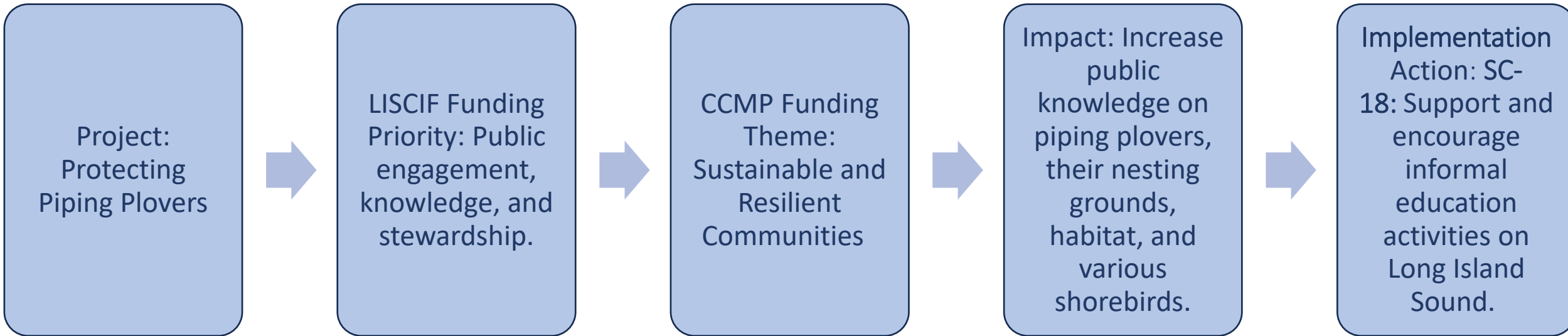
1. Projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention or reduction
2. Restoring habitat within the Important Coastal Habitat Types targeted by LISS
3. Projects that foster diverse, balanced and abundant populations of fish, birds and wildlife
4. Public engagement, knowledge and stewardship
5. Projects that enhance community resilience and sustainability
6. Planning and design that set the stage for implementation of water quality projects, eligible habitat restoration projects and resilience projects
7. Community-based science projects
8. Data management and integration projects
9. Other similar activities that the applicant proposes



# Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF25)

## Project Impact Model Example

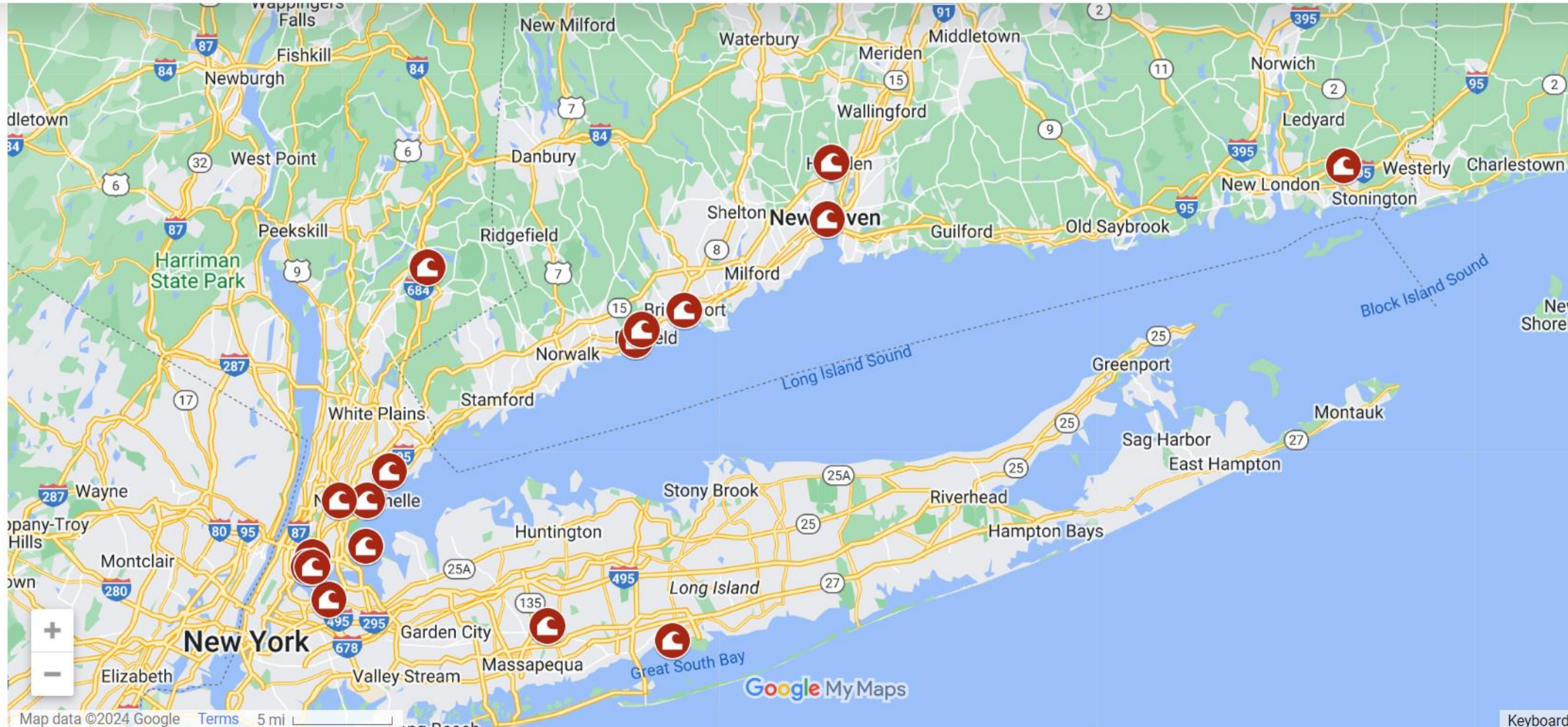
### Example: Protecting Piping Plovers



# List of 2024 Grant Recipients & Projects:



<https://estuaries.org/2024-liscif-grant-recipients/>





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## Achievement of LISCIF Project Metrics

- Upon completion of a LISCIF-funded project, applicants will summarize results using the LISCIF metric framework.
- Projects will use metrics established by the CCMP, under its Implementation Actions.
- As needed, RAE will assist grant recipients in assessing the results of the work, for inclusion in the final report.

# LISCIF Applicant Resources

<https://estuaries.org/liscif/grant-resources/>

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[Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan \(CCMP\)](#)



[Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan \(CCMP\) Implementation Actions \(IAs\)](#)



[Supplemental Documents on Implementation Actions \(IAs\)](#)

[Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds](#)  
[Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife](#)  
[Sustainable and Resilient Communities](#)  
[Sound Science and Inclusive Management](#)



[LISCIF Project Case Studies, Examples of Impact Models & Implementation Actions](#)



[LISCIF LOI Scoring and Evaluation Rubric](#)



[LISCIF Full Proposal Scoring and Evaluation Rubric](#)



[LISCIF Excel Budget Template](#)

# Sea Grant's Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program

- Open on a rolling basis to municipalities and community organizations to facilitate the hiring of a grant-writing contractor to assist with the development of a grant proposal for sustainability and resilience-focused projects that will impact a community(ies) within or partially within the [Long Island Sound Coastal boundary](#)
  - (within Westchester, Bronx, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk counties, western Connecticut, and eastern Connecticut).
- Funding is to be awarded up to \$9,950 per application directly to the applicant's selected contractor on a cost-reimbursable basis and a match is not required.
- [Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program RFP FINAL.pdf - Google Drive](#)



# Use of Funds

- Project Costs
- Salary
- Fringe
- Contractual Support
- Tools & Equipment
- Supplies
- Conferences & Travel
- Indirect Costs

\*All grant payments will be made on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursement requests shall be submitted at least quarterly and at most monthly.

\*Working Capital Advance – Subawardees in need of funds to start projects can request for a Working Capital Advance, which will advance funds for the first two months. Thereafter, funds will be reimbursement based.



# Ineligible Uses of Funds

- **Research and Monitoring:** LISCIF will not fund proposals in which the primary purpose is research or monitoring; however, research and monitoring may be funded as part of a larger grant, where the purpose of the research or monitoring is to assess results and outcomes of the grant-funded activity.
- **Actions Legally Required:** LISCIF will not fund actions required to settle a formal enforcement action or included in a court order; nor will it fund actions required as mitigation measures under a state, local, or federal permit for a specific project.
- **Routine Maintenance:** LISCIF will not fund work involving only routine activities to maintain stormwater infrastructure, other facilities, land, or waterbodies.
- **Plans or studies that lack a clear environmental impact or path to implementation:** Plans and studies will be considered for funding only if they are directly relevant to, and provide results that inform, the achievement of CCMP goals, and where applicants can describe a realistic pathway to implementation.
- **Conventional “gray infrastructure” projects:** LISCIF will not fund conventional infrastructure projects using well-established technologies or methods (e.g., installation of sewer lines).
- **Private Construction:** LISCIF will not fund new construction or retrofitting of buildings or facilities serving primarily private purposes, including residential, commercial, and institutional properties.
- **Land Purchase:** Purchase of land or real estate will not be funded.
- **Lobbying:** LISCIF will not fund proposals that involve any attempts to influence the outcomes of any Federal, state, or local election, referendum, initiative, or similar procedure, through in-kind or cash contributions, endorsements, publicity, or similar activity.

# Budget

- No match requirements
- Excel Budget Template can be downloaded under LISCIF Applicant and Grantee Resources Page

*LISCIF Proposal EXAMPLE Budget Table (for illustration purposes only)*

Federal Cost Category and Item	LISCIF Request	Eligible for Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	Total Cost
<b>a. Personnel (Staff of Grantee Organization Only)</b>			
<b>Staff Member Name or Title, # of Hours, Rate per Hour</b>			
Habitat Coordinator, 500 hours @ \$40.50	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00
<b>Total Personnel</b>	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00
<b>b. Fringe Benefits (Percentage for each staff listed in Personnel x total requested)</b>			
Habitat Coordinator Fringe at 20%	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
<b>Total Fringe</b>	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
<b>c. Travel (Event, number of trips, miles x rate, flight, hotel, conference registration, per diem)</b>			
Habitat Coordinator + one staff travel to RAE Summit (see budget narrative for details)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Travel</b>	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<b>d. Equipment</b>			
		NA	\$0.00
<b>***Total Equipment</b>	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00
<b>e. Supplies (List each supply on its own line, quantity, cost per item)</b>			
100 Water Quality Testing Kits at \$60 each	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

# Application Process

1

## Step 1: Submit Letter of Intent

- Due: November 22, 2024, 4:00 pm EST

2

## Invitation to Submit Full Proposal

- Week of January 13, 2025

3

## Step 2: Submit Full Proposal

- Due: March 14, 2025, 4:00 pm EST

# LISCIF - Timeline



September 9, 2024 – LISCIF RFA Released

November 22, 2024 – Letters of Intent Due

Week of January 13, 2025 – Notification of accepted/rejected LOIs

March 14, 2025 – Full Proposals Due by Invitation

April 2025 – Notification of Awards

July 1, 2025 – Project Start Date

July 30, 2027 – Latest date for completion of Work

August 31, 2027 – Final Reporting Due

# Letter of Intent

## Section 1: Applicant Information

Name/Role of Organization  
Project Leader: Contact Info

## Section 2: Organizational Fiscal Information

Employer Identification Number (EIN)  
Federal System Award Management / Unique Entity ID  
Organizational Budget

## Section 3: Project Overview

Description/Phase  
Attached Map/List of Partners

## Section 4: Cost Information

Amount Requested  
Need for Working Capital Advance

## Section 5: Project Description

Problem, Impact, Alignment with the CCMP  
Stakeholders, Work Plan, Project Team

## Section 6: Required Uploads

Map  
Proposal Budget

## Section 7: Certification

Signature of responsible individual

To Submit Your Letter of Intent, go to: <https://estuaries.org/liscif-2025/>

# Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund 2025 RFA

## QUICK LINKS

- [LISCIF Home](#)
- [LISCIF 2025 RFA](#)
- [Applicant and Grantee Resources](#)
- [Events and Trainings](#)
- [2024 LISCIF Annual Learning](#)

Download LISCIF 2025 RFA [HERE](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

[LISCIF 2025 Informational Webinar](#)

# Letter of Intent Log-in page

Applications

Shahela Begum

## My Applications

Search by organization name or application ID

6 statuses selected



2025 LISCIF LOI Application

Sara Smith on behalf of RESTORE AMERICAS ESTUARIES


● Draft

LISCIF 2025 LOI Application

 Draft on Sep 6, 2024

Application ID: 1359974

Created on Sep 6, 2024

Manage 



# Technical Support Webinars

See recorded webinars and download slides.

Sign up for upcoming webinars!

<https://estuaries.org/liscif/events-and-trainings/>



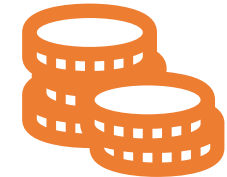
Project Design &  
Building Partnerships



Grant Writing: How to  
Write a Strong Narrative



Budgeting & Staffing:  
How to Ensure the  
Project is Financially  
Viable



Budgeting Q&A

Schedule 30 minute technical support calls: <https://calendly.com/liscif/shahela>

# Annual Learning Exchange June 2024

- Water Quality
- Green Infrastructure
- Oyster Restoration
- Environmental Justice & Stewardship
  
- Communications
- Building a Fundraising Plan
- Volunteer Management
- Invoicing & Recordkeeping



# Technical Support Training Webinars

<https://estuaries.org/liscif/events-and-trainings/>

September 19, 2023

- Project Design & Building Partnerships

October 12, 2023

- Grant Writing: How to Write a Strong Narrative

October 16, 2023

- Budgeting & Staffing: How to Ensure the Project is Financially Viable

November 13, 2023

- Budgeting Q&A Session

January 25, 2024

- Grant Writing Assistance: LISCIF Full Proposal Requirements

February 15, 2024

- Fundraising

May 1, 2024

- Procurements & Record-keeping

May 15, 2024

- Hiring & Retention

June 27, 2024

- Annual Learning Exchange: Comms, Volunteer Management, EJ & Stewardship, etc.

July 30 – 31, 2024

- Managing Projects

August 22, 2024

- LISCIF Reporting

September 26, 2024

- QAPP 101

October 3, 2024

- QAPP Examples & Guidance

November 2024

- Permits

December 2024

- Lobbying

January 2025

- Communication, Press Releases, & Events

# Questions?

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Shahela Begum, LISCIF Program Director

Email: [sbegum@estuaries.org](mailto:sbegum@estuaries.org)

Phone: 347-325-2627

Sign up for updates & future trainings:

<https://estuaries.org/liscif-sign-up/>

