



SNEP 2025 Restoration Capital Mini-Grants Request for Proposals (RFP)

***Release Date 29 January 2025
Revised 6 February 2025 (Drones Ineligible)***

Application Link at End of RFP – Read This First

Overview: SNEP 2025 Restoration Capital Mini-Grants is a one-time program to provide funding for the purchase of equipment and supplies for use in restoring clean water, healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities in Southeast New England. The mini-grants 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).

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 entirely separate from SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG). The 2025 SWIG RFP will be released in February, 2025. Applicants may apply to both programs; if so, each application will be evaluated independently. If supplies or equipment are needed for work proposed in a SWIG application, we recommend including those in the SWIG request rather than through the Mini-Grants program.

Use of Funds: Organizations may request from \$1000 to \$10,000. Funds must be used exclusively for direct purchase of equipment or supplies. Under federal rules, “equipment” is defined as durable goods costing \$5,000 or more, while “supplies” are tangible items with a unit price of \$5000 or less. 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.

State sales tax is reimbursable as part of a larger purchase.

Applicants are encouraged to share supplies and equipment where appropriate, among several organizations, municipalities, etc.

Non-allowable uses of these grants include personnel, fringe, travel, contractual or indirect expenses.

Due to recent changes in federal regulations, drones are ineligible for purchase under this program.

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 is not required; however, grants may be used for partial funding of larger purchases if the additional funds are available at the time of the request and purchases are made within the required timeframe.

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. 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 purchase 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 purchase necessary to support this work?
3. Reasonableness: Is the requested amount reasonable in the context of the work and prevailing costs?

4. 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?

5. Eligibility: Awardees must meet all eligibility requirements at the time of award (see below).

Schedule:

- Evaluation of applications will begin on March 3, 2025.
- Awards will be made on a rolling basis as funds allow.
- Application period will close on April 30, 2025, subject to change based on availability of funding.
- **All purchases funded under this program must be complete, and all reimbursement requests submitted to Restore America's Estuaries (RAE), by May 31, 2025. Note that submittals must include a brief account of the final procurement process.**

Funds available for the mini-grants program may be fully obligated well before the end of the application period; therefore, those who submit applications early will have the best chance of receiving awards.

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 equipment and/or supplies that will be used 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.

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

How to Apply: Application is through an online form; a Google account is required to access and may be obtained for free at www.google.com. Upon submittal, a confirmation email and copy of your application will be sent to the email address that you provide on the form. For problems with the online form, contact Tom Ardito. Only one application per organization will be considered.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY TO 2025 SNEP RESTORATION CAPITAL MINI-GRANTS.](#)

###END RFP###