



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES



Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund Informational Webinar Request for Applications 2026

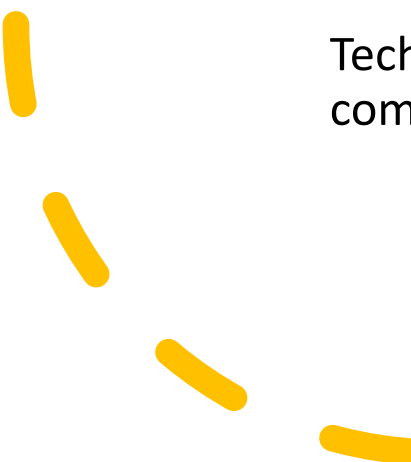


The Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) is a partnership among:

- Restore America's Estuaries
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Long Island Sound Partnership

Purpose: The purpose of LISCIF is to provide technical and financial assistance to communities for addressing environmental issues and to improve the quality and accessibility of the Long Island Sound.

Technical assistance will be provided through LISCIF and is available to communities/organizations even if one does not submit a proposal for funding.



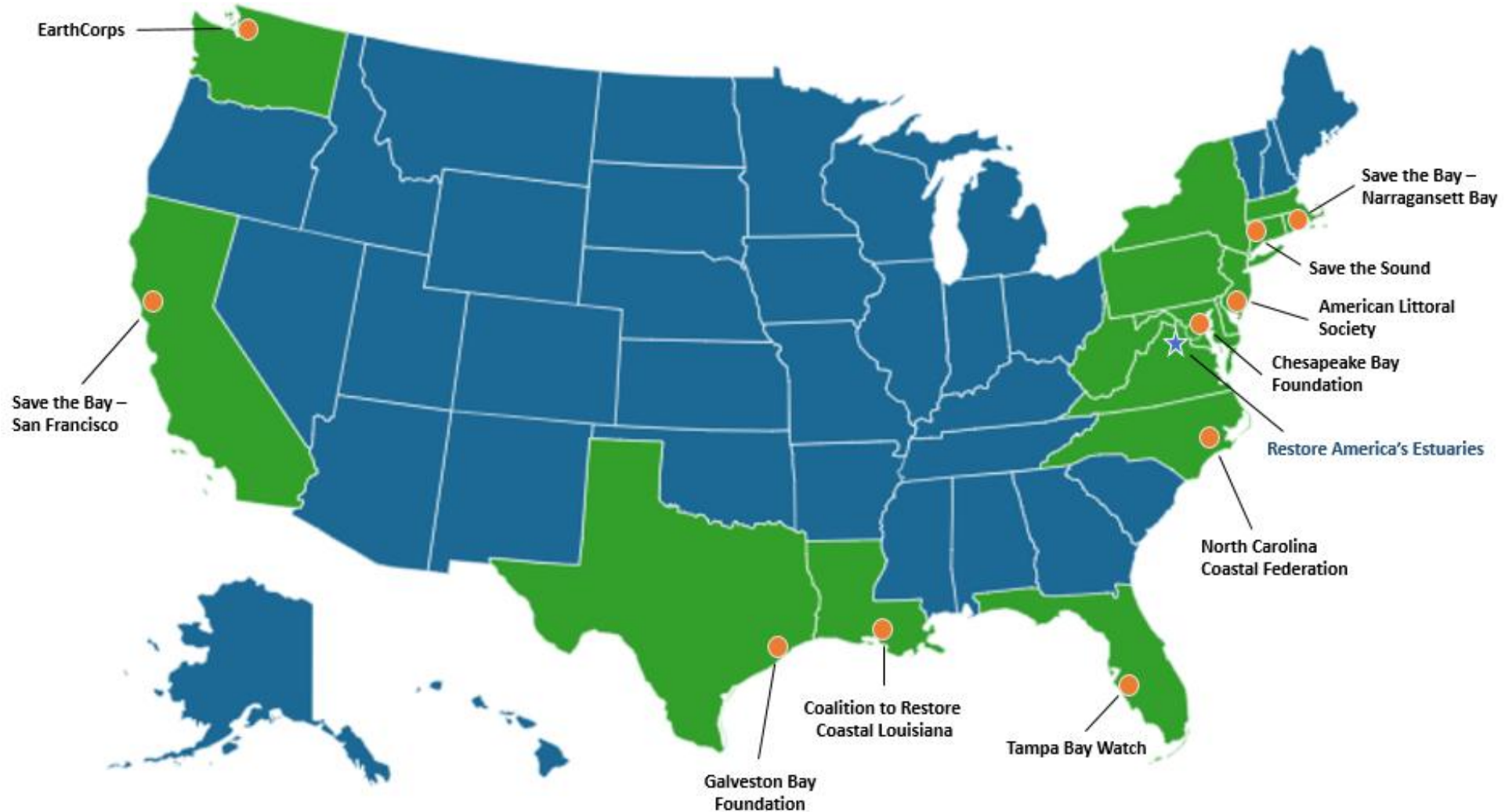
Long Island Sound: The Urban Sea

The Long Island Sound Partnership 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.



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

- 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

- Program Overview:
 - For LISCIF 2026 - RAE will award up to \$1,200,000 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

- The LIS Partnership 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

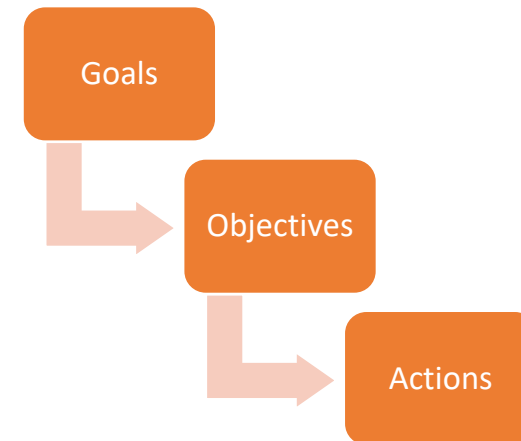
- Eligible Applicants include non-profit organizations, Tribes, state, county, local governments, and their subdivisions, and academic institutions.
- Projects funded under LISCIF must address the priorities identified under “Funding Priorities” in the RFA.
- Proposals should target communities experiencing 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 Lols 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)



[Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#)

4 Themes:



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

Source: <https://lispartnership.org/2025/06/2025-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan-ccmp/>



Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds

Restore and maintain water quality in Long Island Sound and its watershed.

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

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



Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Restore and protect the health and resilience of habitats and wildlife in Long Island Sound and its ecosystems.



Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Empower Long Island Sound communities to plan and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all.

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)



Informed and Engaged Public

Inspire and empower the public to appreciate, value, and protect Long Island Sound and the waters that flow into the Sound.

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

Informed & Engaged Public

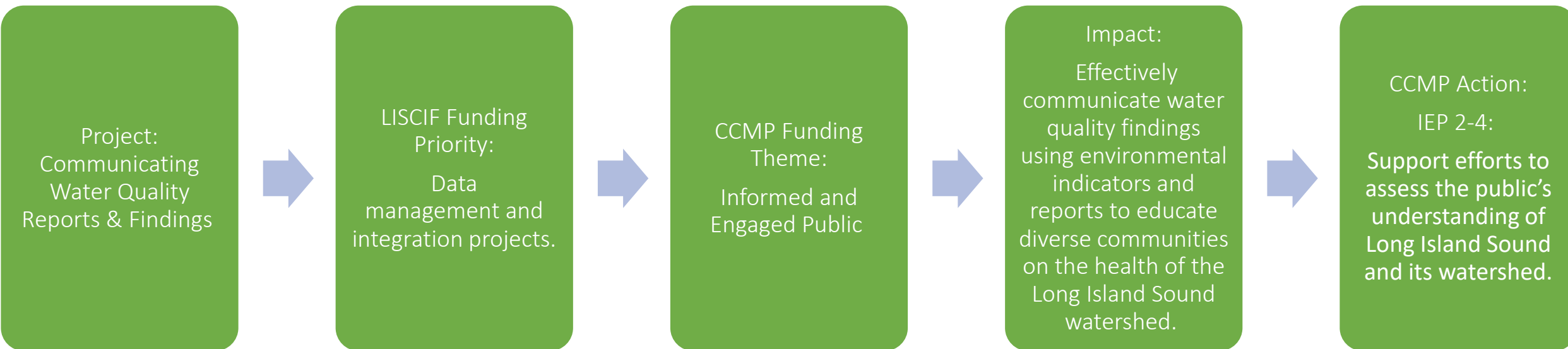
1. Projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention or reduction
2. Restoring habitat within the Important Coastal Habitat Types targeted by LIS Partnership
3. Projects that foster diverse, balanced and abundant populations of fish, birds and wildlife
4. Public engagement, knowledge and stewardship
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 (LISCIF26)

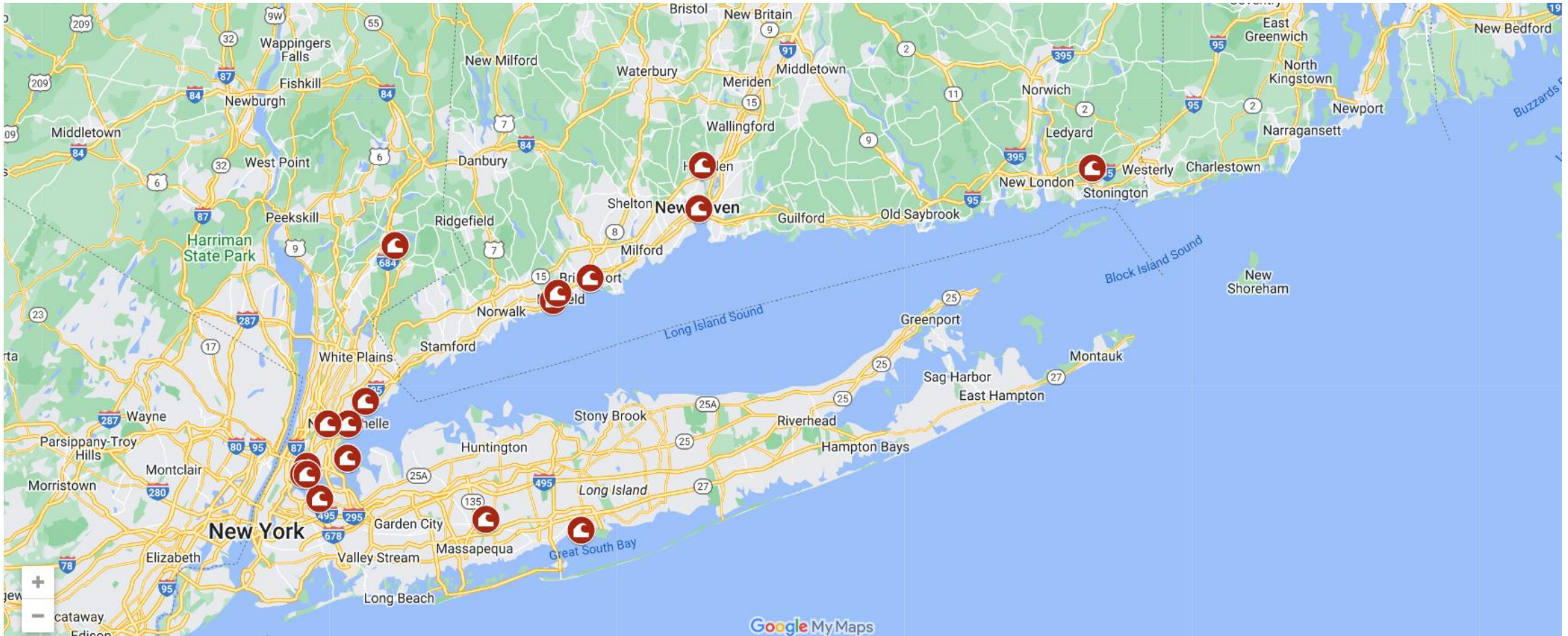
Project Impact Model Example



Example 4: Communicating Water Quality Reports & Findings



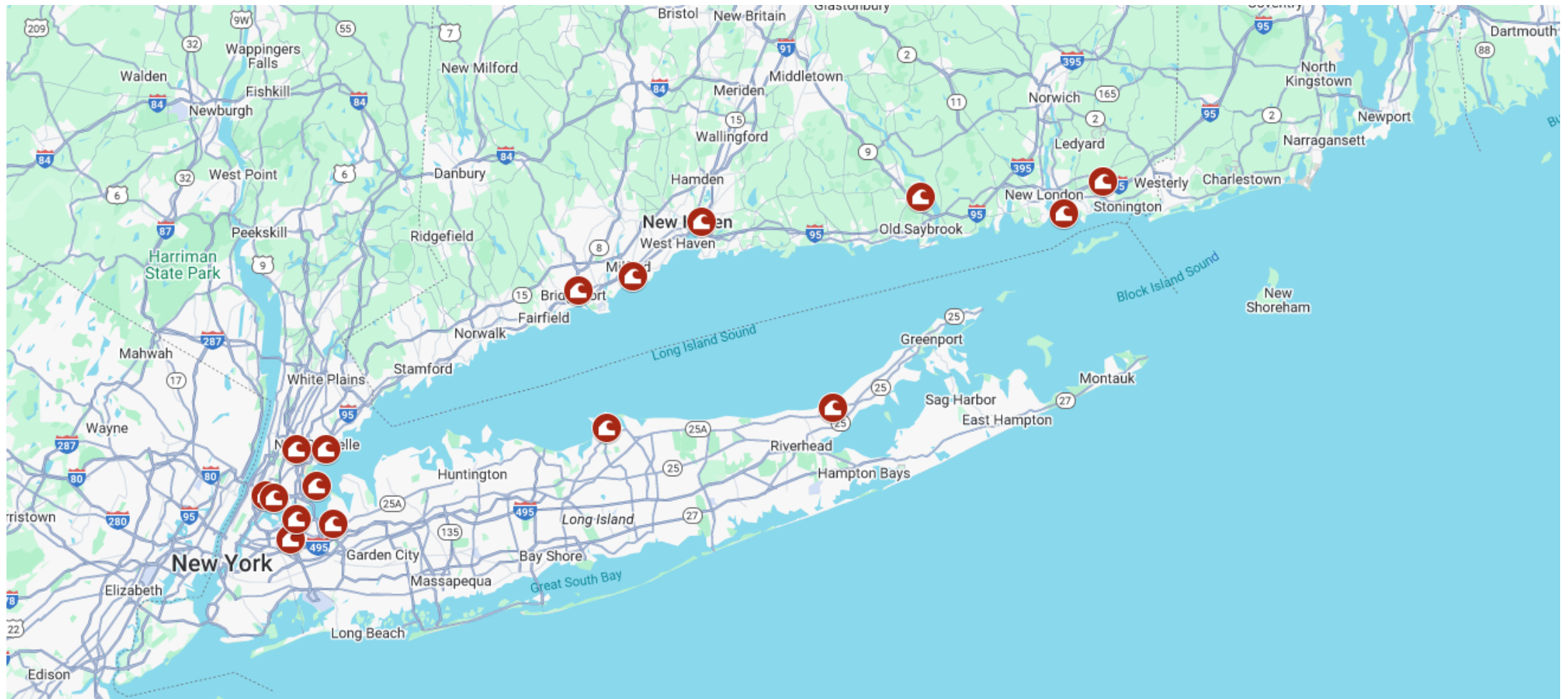
Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2024 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2024 Grant Sheet here:

<https://estuaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/LISCIF-Subawardee-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2025 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2025 Grant Sheet here:

<https://estuaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/LISCIF25-Awardee-Fact-Sheet-1.pdf>



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 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/>



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



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



[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](#)

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: Awardees 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
a. Personnel (Staff of Grantee Organization Only) Staff Member Name or Title, # of Hours, Rate per Hour			
Habitat Coordinator, 500 hours @ \$40.50	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00
Total Personnel	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00
b. Fringe Benefits (Percentage for each staff listed in Personnel x total requested)			
Habitat Coordinator Fringe at 20%	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
Total Fringe	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
c. Travel (Event, number of trips, miles x rate, flight, hotel, conference registration, per diem)			
Habitat Coordinator + one staff travel to RAE Summit (see budget narrative for details)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Total Travel	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
d. Equipment			
		NA	\$0.00
***Total Equipment	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00
e. Supplies (List each supply on its own line, quantity, cost per item)			
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 21, 2025, 4:00 pm EST

2

Invitation to Submit Full Proposal

- Week of January 12, 2026

3

Step 2: Submit Full Proposal

- Due: March 13, 2026, 4:00 pm EST

LISCIF - Timeline



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September
2, 2025 –
LISCIF RFA
Released

November
21, 2025 –
Letters of
Intent Due

Week of
January 12,
2026 –
Notification
of accepted/
rejected LOIs

March 13,
2026 – Full
Proposals
Due by
Invitation

April 2026
–
Notification
of Awards

July 1, 2026
– Project
Start Date

July 31,
2028 –
Latest date
for
completion
of Work

August 31,
2028 – 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

Brief 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, Capacity Building, Work Plan, Outreach, Project Team

Section 6: Required Uploads

Map

Section 7: Certification

Signature of responsible individual

To Submit Your Letter of Intent, go to: <https://estuaries.org/liscif-2026/>



Learn

Our Impact

Make a Difference

Grants

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund 2026 RFA

Download LISCIF 2026 RFA [HERE](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)



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

October 2, 2025

1 – 2 pm



Budgeting:
Creating a
Federal Budget

October 9, 2025

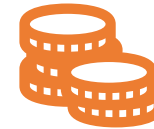
1 – 2 pm



Grant
Writing: How to
Write a Strong
Narrative

October 21,
2025

3 – 4 pm



Budgeting Q&A
Contact us if you
need additional
support

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



Save the Date: Annual Learning Exchange June 25, 2026

- Panel Discussion from current awardees
- Trainings focused on capacity building
- Addressing challenges faced by the region
- Events and Trainings
 - 2024 LISCIF Annual Learning Exchange
 - 2025 LISCIF Annual Learning Exchange



Technical Support Training Webinars

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

September 26, 2024

- QAPP 101

October 3, 2024

- QAPP Examples and Guidance

January 15, 2025

- Meaningful Community Engagement

May 13, 2025

- GIS Mapping: Presenting Results and Findings

June 30, 2025

- Annual Learning Exchange: Aquaculture Permitting, LIS CCMP, QuickDrops, Grant Writing, etc.

July 30, 2025

- Final Reporting

August 28, 2025

- Invoicing

October 2, 2025

- Project Design & Building Partnerships

October 6-7, 2025

- Managing Projects

October 9, 2025

- Creating a Federal Budget

October 21, 2025

- Writing a Strong Narrative

November 2024

- Matching Funds

November 2025

- Mini-Learning Exchange

December 2025

- Mini-Learning Exchange

January 2025

- Communication, Press Releases, & Events

Stay tuned for
additional upcoming
training
opportunities!

Questions?

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Sign up for updates & future trainings:

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



Source: Shahela Begum, Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability & Equity, Jamaica Bay Estuary