



2024 NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL RESILIENCE GRANTS Questions & Responses Regarding the Grant Opportunity – Updated 5/15/2024

Important NH Coastal Resilience Grant (CRG) links:

More details about the [NH Coastal Resilience Grants](#) can be found on the website such as the 2024 Coastal Resilience Grant [Application Instructions and Evaluation Criteria](#). The [2024 Application Form](#) is also linked on the CRG website. The [2024 Coastal Resilience Grants Informational Webinar](#) took place on April 29, 2024 and was recorded and posted to the NHDES YouTube page.

Date: 4/25/2024 | Kyle Pimental & Autumn Scott, Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC); Bart McDonough, Town of Newmarket | Kirsten Howard & Becca Katz

Question: Town staff in Newmarket are interested in continuing work to develop project site designs that are identified as priorities during the Riverfront Master Plan chapter development process. SRPC staff would support the application. Because the Riverfront Master Plan chapter process is still ongoing, they may not be able to identify the specific project sites in the application. Staff wanted to know if an application would be eligible and competitive. Staff wanted general feedback about the idea.

Response: The project concept is eligible. CRG funds can support up to 75% engineering designs and cannot support permitting. If they are unable to identify the specific design sites/projects in the application, recommend including some commitment to selecting projects that align with the CRG priorities as well as a process step during the grant during which they will present their preferred design sites/projects to the NHCP grant manager for discussion and approval (during contract negotiations or during the project itself).

Date: 4/29/2024 | NH CRG Webinar Questions | Kirsten Howard & Becca Katz

A recording of the [2024 Coastal Resilience Grants Informational Webinar](#) has been posted to the NHDES YouTube page.

1. **Question:** Would a project to help with state requirements regarding stormwater runoff be eligible for this application?

Response: Yes, this funding would be eligible to help with stormwater management, including compliance with MS-4 permit requirements. Keep in mind the funding cannot be used to support permitting or construction work or any work that disturbs the ground, therefore you would want to be applying for a project focused on capacity-building/education/outreach/community engagement, planning and assessment, or design projects up to 75% engineering designs.

2. **Question:** Can any portion of these funds be used to install a living shoreline that has already been designed?

Response: No, this funding cannot be used to supporting permitting or construction work or any work that disturbs the ground. Once past the 75% design stage, NEPA is required, and with the timeline and amount of funding in the 2024 CRGs its is doable but not realistic or justifiable this year.

3. **Question:** Can the funds be used for outreach for a construction project? Can the funds be used to conservation practices like a buffer zone?

Response: Yes, the funds can be used as outreach for a construction project. Anything that touches the ground or breaks ground will trigger NEPA. In these cases, signage or plants can be planned and designed, but cannot be installed. Any outreach or planning or design work is eligible. Any implementation work around the project can be used as leveraged resources but not as match, because it would then trigger NEPA.

4. **Question:** Can an emergency response plan be eligible for funds? Are there any communities that have done this in the past?

Response: We are not aware of an Emergency Response and Mitigation Plan existing, though it is a recommendation in the 2016 Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission Report. This is eligible for CRG funds.

5. **Question:** What are the CRGs parameters around signage?

Response: You can use the funds to design, buy, and plan out signage, but you cannot install them using CRG funds or with CRG match.

6. **Question:** Would supporting the Voluntary Elevation Home and Buyout Program be eligible, and if any funds can be given to private property owners or used on private property?

Response: We would have to look at what the CRG funds would be supporting specifically, there are some eligible aspects with private property such as design work. For example, NHCP would need to look into if surveys are allowed on private property.

7. **Question:** For building capacity projects, could this funding be used to support internships for Summer 2025?

Response: Yes.

Date: 5/3/2024 | Bri Benvenuti, Ducks Unlimited | Kevin Lucey

Question: Would you be interested in writing a letter of support for our project proposal?

Response: Kevin declined to provide letter of support, because he is on the CRG review committee and that would present a conflict of interest.

Date: 5/6/2024 | Barbara Kravitz, Hampton Beach Area Commission (HBAC) | Kirsten Howard

Question: Barbara Kravitz wanted to know more about the goals and criteria associated with the funding opportunity. She also asked about eligibility and competitiveness of several project concepts, including 1) a project to combine the three separate components of the HBAC master plan (original plan, transportation plan, coastal resilience plan) into one cohesive planning document, 2) conducting a comparison of the HBAC coastal resilience plan and the Town of Hampton master plan in order to identify gaps, and 3) coordinating the seven coastal communities on coastal resilience work.

Response: All three project concepts would be eligible. #1 and #2 would fit under Planning and Assessment. #3 would fit under Capacity Building. The first two concepts may have trouble competing against other projects that are more focused on either creating new resilience plans where they do not yet exist and/or implementing recommendations in existing resilience plans. The third concept seems like it could compete, and the review committee would want to see buy-in among key partners and clear details about the process for coordinating the towns.

Date: 5/6/2024 | Joanne Gloade, The Nature Conservancy, NH (TNC) | Kirsten Howard

Question: Do you have a template for letters of commitment?

Response: No, we do not currently have a letter of commitment template. Partners can write a letter on their own letterhead and address it to the NH Coastal Resilience Grants Review Committee. They should include a statement committing to the project with some specificity about the role they will play/be responsible for (especially if grant funds will be supporting them or if they are committing match).

Date: 5/7/2024 | Brianna O'Brien, Town of Hampton and Liz Durfee, EDesign & Planning | Kevin Lucey

Discussion: The group discussed a project concept for education and outreach related to invasive pepperweed management and control in Hampton.

Date: 5/15/2024 | Marcus Landers, Stanford University | Kirsten Howard & Becca Katz

Discussion: Marcus shared a proposal concept to support an economic analysis of the impacts associated with a new policy/program to support building elevations and other building retrofits/actions to increase resilience. Marcus asked about eligibility, fiscal agent, and methods for procuring economic services.

Response: The concept to fund an economic analysis is eligible for funding, and would likely fit best under the Planning category. Any fiscal agent or sponsor of the project must be an eligible applicant type, per the CRG instructions. Procurement of contractual services needs to be done according to the procurement rules associated with the applicant organization. The applicant could propose to conduct a competitive request for proposals as part of their project or they could partner with economic expertise in advance and co-develop the grant proposal.