



June 9, 2023

**NOTICE FOR 2024 WATER QUALITY PLANNING 604(b) FUNDING
Request for Letters of Intent**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is requesting Letters of Intent (LOI) for 2024 Section 604(b) Water Quality Planning projects. The LOI will be used to select projects warranting further development and consideration for funding. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal for funding.

A LOI consultation is *REQUIRED*.

Call or e-mail us to discuss your LOI by *September 6, 2023*.

The LOI submittal deadline is 4:00 PM on *September 15, 2023*.

- Coastal watershed: Sally Soule ([603 559-0032](tel:6035590032)) or sally.a.soule@des.nh.gov
- All other watersheds: Jeff Marcoux ([603 271-8862](tel:6032718862)) or jeffrey.d.marcoux@des.nh.gov
- River Corridor Plans: Nisa Marks ([603 271-8811](tel:6032718811)) or nisa.m.marks@des.nh.gov

Preference will be given to projects that address water quality concerns in high priority restoration recovery watersheds or high quality waters in priority protection potential watersheds as identified in the [2020-2024 New Hampshire Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan](#) Appendices B through E. Appendix F presents Restoration Recovery Potential Maps for each Regional Planning Commission and Appendix H presents the ranking for priority protection potential watersheds.

Section 604(b) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act requires funds to be allocated to entities for conducting water quality planning, including:

- 1) Identifying the most cost effective and locally acceptable facility and nonpoint source (NPS) measures to meet and maintain water quality standards.
- 2) Developing an implementation plan to obtain State and local financial and regulatory commitments to implement water quality plans.
- 3) Determining the nature, extent and causes of water quality problems in the State.
- 4) Determining those publicly owned treatment works which should be constructed, taking into account the relative degree of effluent reduction attained and the consideration of alternatives to such construction.

Other eligible projects that address the above water quality concerns may include but are not limited to: developing corridor management plans for designated rivers, conducting monitoring to address specific water quality concerns; planning stormwater retrofits to address water quality impairments; green infrastructure projects that manage wet weather to maintain or restore natural hydrology; working with municipalities committed to adopting specific model ordinances and/or meeting regulations (MS4 Permits) to address priority water quality planning concerns; and/or developing watershed-based plans in accordance with EPA criteria requiring nine required elements (a) through (i) for watershed-based plans. Consider utilizing procured subcontractors for services such as modeling pollutant loads, running watershed and in-lake models to generate water quality goals, creating best management practice (BMP) prioritization and cost effectiveness tables, etc., if in-house capacity does not exist.

Projects that are coordinated with additional watershed partners are highly encouraged.

To apply, your LOI narrative must be no more than four pages and include the following:

- Project title, description and general location (communities and watershed).
- Name and contact information of person who will be responsible for coordinating the project.
- Water quality problem being addressed.
- Water quality status as reported in the 305(b)/303(d) assessment report. (Watershed Report Cards can be found on the [Surface Water Quality Assessment Viewer](#) and included with your attachments).
- Description of project's impact on communities with environmental justice concerns. (**Note:** NHDES staff will utilize EPA's [Environmental Justice Screening Tool](#) to facilitate project ranking).
- Description of how the project will address the local effects of climate change.
- Project partners and their involvement with the project.
- Relevance to items 1), 2), 3), or 4) listed above on Page 1.
- Specific deliverables and associated environmental outcomes.
- Estimated cost of the project. Estimates should be as accurate as possible.

Attachment(s) that provide documentation for project need, scope, and support of the elements listed above are encouraged to be submitted with the LOI.

Approximately \$155,000 is available for calendar year 2024. Of that, \$25,000 will be prioritized for Designated River Corridor Management Plans. NHDES anticipates funding three to five projects with the available funding. Applicants are encouraged to leverage 604(b) grant funds with local funding, in-kind services, and other forms of match to generate effective project budgets. Although not required, projects that demonstrate matching funds and/or in-kind resources will receive a higher ranking. Administrative costs, including indirect costs, must not exceed 10 percent of the total project budget.

The LOI must be received by NHDES by **4:00 PM on September 15, 2023**. The LOI is non-binding but is required for initial consideration. The LOI and supporting documentation should be emailed to andrea.l.beitlich@des.nh.gov.

Upon review of the LOI, selected applicants will be notified in **October 2023** and invited to submit formal applications by **December 15, 2023**. Final selection of applications to receive funding will be made in **January 2024**. Projects are expected to receive Governor and Executive Council approval and are anticipated to begin by **June 2024**.

Submission of a LOI does not commit NHDES to award a Grant Agreement or pay any costs incurred during the preparation of a LOI. All awards are subject to Governor and Executive Council approval. NHDES also reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals and to negotiate the scope of work and requested grant amounts.

Contact: Andrea Beitlich, Watershed Specialist, Watershed Assistance Section
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