Frequently Asked Questions

2023 Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Application

Question 1) Is there a limit on the number of applications and/or number of awards for an applicant?

Response: 3 applications per entity. Each project will be assessed independently.

Question 2) What is the source of funding for this grant?

Response: State funding

Question 3) Will state Davis Bacon Act requirements apply to this funding?

Response: No

Question 4) Can entities that have already received grant awards under the municipal stream crossing program (under DEP) apply for additional funds under this program for the same project?

Response: No

Question 5) Will there be any assistance available for applicants?

Response: Training and technical assistance opportunities are available in support of project applications with The Nature Conservancy and Maine Audubon. For more information, please visit <u>https://maineaudubon.org/projects/stream-smart/</u> AND/OR reach out to Christian Fox, christian.fox@TNC.ORG, or Sarah Haggerty, <u>shaggerty@maineaudubon.org</u>

Question 6) Do applicants need a letter of support from DMR/IFW?

Response: Initially the program did require letters of support from DMR and IFW; however, this has been removed from the Request for Application and the Application Template. Letters of support from DMR/IFW are not needed.

Question 7) How much funding should applicants request?

Response: Funds could be used for design and construction. Applicants can request up to \$200,000 for their project based on estimated project costs. The entity will only get reimbursed for the money spent on the project.

Question 8) When is this application due?

Response: Deadline for the application was extended 1 week, to January 19, 2024.

Question 9) If an entity received a municipal stream crossing grant when DEP was the grant administrator, should this entity continue to work with DEP?

Response: Yes, DEP will continue working with existing awardees under that program.

Question 10) Will applicants who include completed milestones such as permitting and design score higher than projects without completed milestones?

Response: Not necessarily. MaineDOT is looking for projects that will improve fish and wildlife habitat. Although these milestones demonstrate that a municipality is committed to the project and can likely successfully complete the project, this may not outweigh the value of improving fish and wildlife habitat elsewhere.

Question 11) What "match types" qualify?

Response: In-kind or cash

Question 12) Could this program fund projects that are already under construction?

Response: No

Question 13) Can these funds be used as a match for projects that have received funding from other sources (e.g., federal funding)?

Response: No

Question 14) Will projects that propose a higher percentage match score higher than a project that proposes minimum match?

Response: Applicants will not be penalized for proposing minimum match (\$5,000) but if there are a handful of projects that are very similar, a higher match amount could push that project ahead. As noted in the scoring criteria, the match type and percent is included in the Scoring Criteria for Cost effectiveness of the proposed culvert/crossing.

Question 15) Scoring criteria lists "Project efficiency demonstrated by engineering design communities". Is "communities" a typographic error for "commitments"?

Response: Yes

Question 16) How will projects be scored for "project efficiency demonstrated by engineering commitments"?

Response: Applications will be scored based on their ability to provide the requested commitments, in particular items related to fish and wildlife passage.