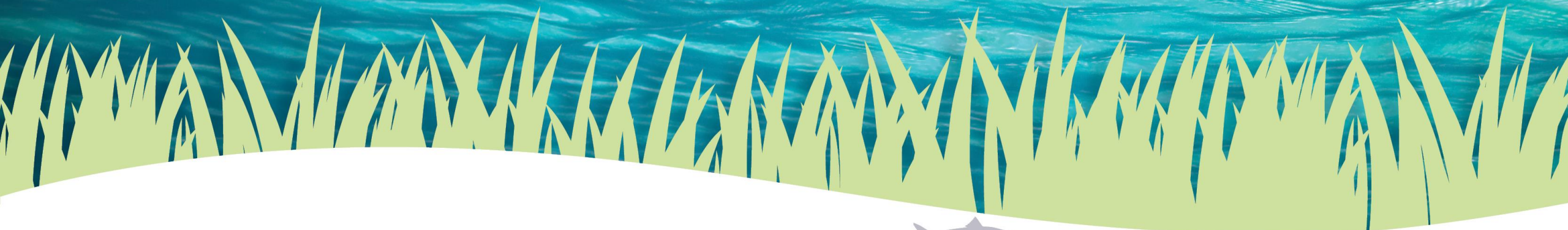


# SNEP Technical Assistance Network Federal Fiscal Years 2025-2029 Grant

## Informational Webinar



U.S. EPA, Southeast New England Program



February 26, 2024, 1:00-2:30PM (EST)





- Please mute/video off during presentation
- This meeting is being recorded
- Slides/recording will be posted to SNEP webpage
- Closed captioning is available via Microsoft Teams
- Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation
- Questions and answers will be posted on SNEP webpage <https://www.epa.gov/snep/funding-and-technical-assistance-southeast-new-england-program>

# Funding Opportunity Information



- CFDA: 66.129

- RFA Link:

<https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/352296>

- Opportunity #: EPA-R1-SNEP-2024-NETWORK



- SNEP Overview
- Technical Assistance Network Functions and Expertise
- Funding Overview
- RFA Review Criteria
- Question & Answer Period



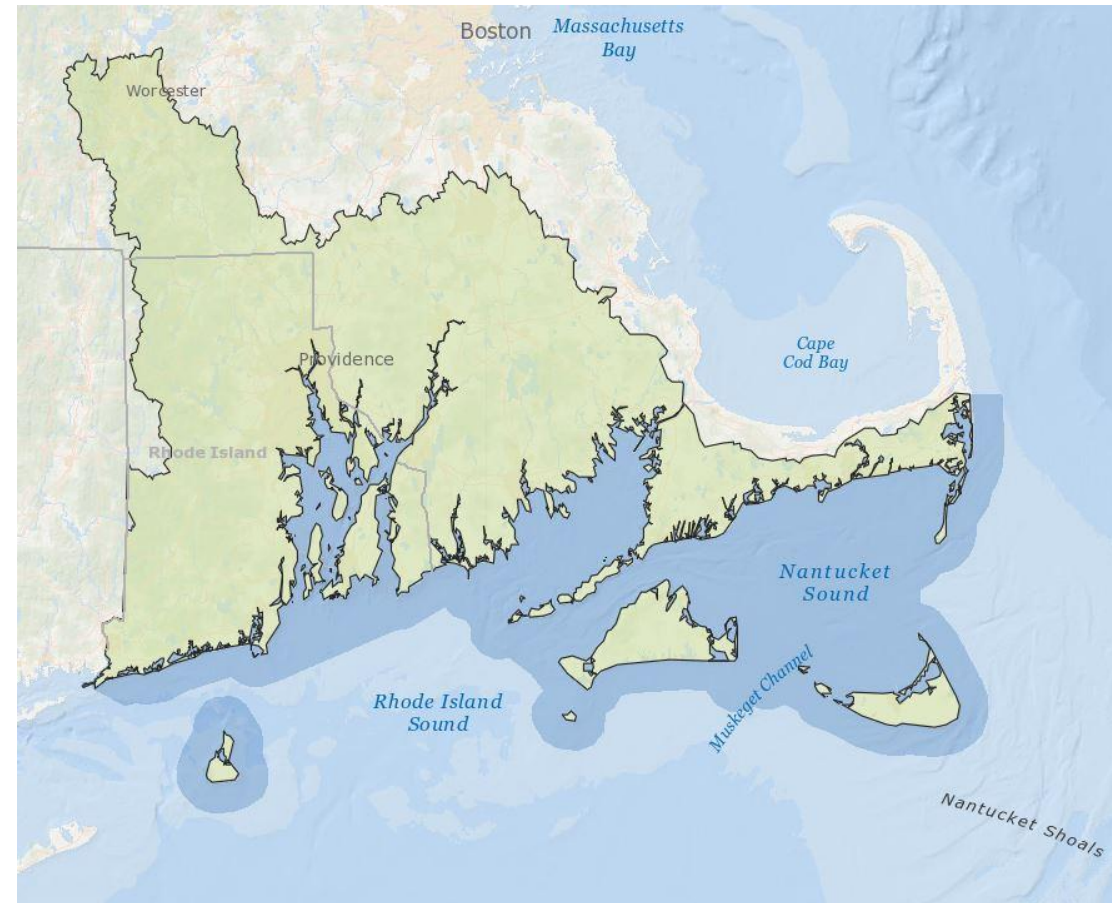
# SNEP Overview



# SNEP Overview



- Southeast New England Program
- EPA Led (Region 1)
- Established in 2012, funded since 2014
- Rhode Island and S.E Massachusetts
- Foci:
  - Water Quality/Habitat
  - Climate Resilience
  - Innovation
  - Collaboration
  - Transferability
  - Holistic Approaches
  - Environmental Justice





## Program Vision 2050

A resilient ecosystem of safe and healthy waters, thriving watersheds and natural lands, and sustainable communities in the SNEP coastal watershed region

### Resilient Ecosystem of Safe and Healthy Waters

- Waters support native seagrasses and aquatic life, plentiful native fish and shellfish, and a variety of water-based recreation opportunities

### Thriving Watersheds and Natural Lands

- Watersheds provide essential ecological functions, species diversity, and protection from both human-based and naturally occurring environmental stressors, and healthy, connected natural lands support a variety and range of native plant and wildlife communities

### Sustainable Communities

- Communities share robust water-based economics, protect and provide access to natural lands, open spaces and parks, encourage local food sources, and are adapting for resilience to expected impacts of climate change

# Overall Emphasis



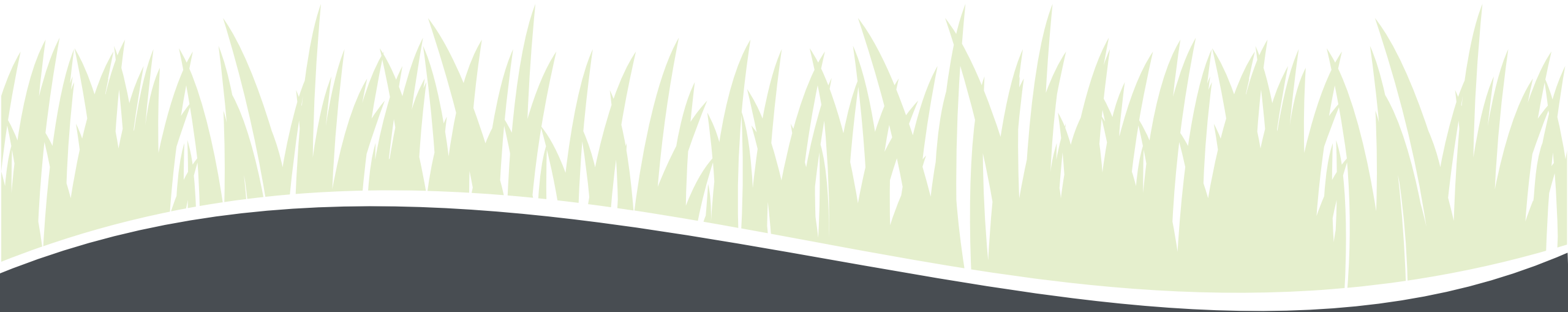
## Projects which:

- Take holistic and multi-disciplinary approaches;
- Take place in the SNEP region;
- Produce multiple benefits (environmental, social, economic, carbon-sequestration, ecosystem service improvements, etc.);
- Support or and/or leverage larger efforts, projects, or plans;
- Seek to plan or design for future, large-scale projects; and/or
- Implement projects consistent with SNEP's Strategic Plan.





# Technical Assistance Network Functions and Expertise



# Technical Assistance Network Functions



## **Network functions should include, but are not limited to:**

- Overall financial and logistical administration of the Network, including providing a range of no-cost services and support to local Tribes, communities, and environmental organizations.
- Developing, in conjunction with EPA, and releasing a monthly newsletter highlighting accomplishments of SNEP as a whole, including Network updates. EPA will develop the bulk of the content and the Network will distribute.
- Developing and implementing a SNEP Network “Road Show” communications strategy to engage communities where they are (e.g., in the community or at regional meetings/events), explain the functions of the Network, share success stories, and seek new technical assistance opportunities.



# Technical Assistance Network Functions Cont.



## **Network functions should include, but are not limited to:**

- Managing a SNEP Network website to serve as an information hub.
- Participating in EPA SNEP events, including forums, symposia, funding announcements and project kickoff events.
- Participating in national networks of financial innovators and environmental professionals to share knowledge with Tribes, communities, and environmental organizations.
- Annual reporting on the achievement of EPA project metrics, contribution to a SNEP End of Year Accomplishments report, and development of activity/project highlights for posting on EPA's SNEP website and/or other formats.



# Technical Assistance Network Functions Cont.



## Network functions should include, but are not limited to:

- Furthering SNEP priorities by facilitating partnerships, networking, and technical transfer to help communities plan for and finance future implementation projects and increase local capacity.
- Having an on-the-ground presence in the SNEP Region by designating lead points of contact for Rhode Island and Massachusetts who are available to share the Networks services at appropriate events and provide technical assistance to organizations in their respective states and generally serve as liaisons.
- Soliciting expert organizations that can provide support to Tribes, local communities, and environmental organizations through RFPs for contracts and/or subawards (if specific expertise is not available within the applicant organization).



# Technical Assistance Network Functions Cont.



## **Network functions should include, but are not limited to:**

- Determining target communities in need of support, identifying opportunities for outreach to gain their participation and provide technical assistance, and developing an understanding of local needs.
- Providing coordination, outreach, training, resources, and opportunities for peer-to-peer learning related to the goals referenced in Sections I.B and I.C of this solicitation.
- Providing financial and environmental training to provide Tribes, local communities and environmental organizations with the expertise referenced later in this solicitation.



# Technical Assistance Network Functions Cont.



## Network functions should include, but are not limited to:

- Working with municipalities and Tribes to help them develop successful grant applications, with special attention to organizations that have applied for and did not receive funding from SNEP funding in the past.
- Connect organizations with local, state and federal permitting authorities to help them understand and successfully navigate permitting requirements related to stormwater, flood reduction, climate resilience and wastewater.
- Where communities are facing similar challenges, provide guidance, tools, training programs, or model bylaws/regulations (for example, see SNEP Network tools like the stormwater retrofit manual, bylaw review tool, grant funding inventory).



# Technical Assistance Network Expertise



## Network Expertise Should Include:

- Offer trainings to Tribes and communities on the methods and tools available for environmental-sensitive construction practices, smart growth, stormwater planning, habitat resilience, restoration and protection planning, wastewater planning, and climate resiliency planning.
- Provide guidance to small towns which lack professional help on the development and review of a contractor solicitation for services, and oversight.
- Conducting a yearly RFP process to select projects for in-depth, no-cost technical assistance. **Examples can be found in the RFA**



# Technical Assistance Network Expertise Cont.



## Network Expertise Should Include:

- Preparing and gaining approval of Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for Network activities involving the use of secondary data or modeling.
- Reporting on qualitative and quantitative program measures to capture the environmental outputs, outcomes, and metrics resulting from activities undertaken through this grant.
- Developing a transition plan to ensure that if another entity is awarded the SNEP Network grant after 2029, transition will be as seamless as possible.







# Funding Overview



# SNEP Technical Assistance Network



## Funding:

- \$8,750,000 total
- Split over five years
- One Awardee
- 20% Match requirement (\$1,750,000 in match, for a total project cost of \$10,500,000)

## Project Period:

- Five years (October 2024 – September 2029)

## Other Details:

- Applications completed through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) (CFDA 66.129)



# SNEP Technical Assistance Network



## Important Dates:

- Opened: 02/12/2024
- Informational Webinar:  
02/26/2024 1:00-2:30pm (EST)
- Last Day to Ask Questions:  
04/12/2024
- Application Deadline: 05/01/2024  
11:59PM (EST)
- Notification of Selection/Rejection:  
Summer/Fall 2024
- Public Announcement: TBD



# SNEP Technical Assistance Network



- All applicants must substantially comply with eligibility requirements (Sections III & IV of RFA)
- Eligible Entities:
  - State, Local, Tribal Governments/Departments
  - Institutions of Higher Education
  - Nonprofit Institutions and Organizations
  - Interstate Agencies
- Ineligible Entities
  - Private Business\*
  - Federal Agencies
  - Individuals\*



\*these entities are encouraged to partner with eligible entities

# SNEP Technical Assistance Network



- Submissions must be received before May 01, 2024 11:59PM (EST) via Grant.Gov
- Must Support EPA's Strategic Plan Goals (Section I.E)
- Must Include all Mandatory Documentation (Section IV.F)
- Work must Occur in the SNEP Region
- 15 Pages Max





## **Mandatory Documents:**

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- EPA Form 4700-4 Pre-Award Compliance Review Report
- Budget Detail (Budget Narrative Attachment Form)
- Project Narrative Attachment Form: Use this to submit your Project Narrative, prepared as described in Section IV.F
- Support Documents (See Next Slide)

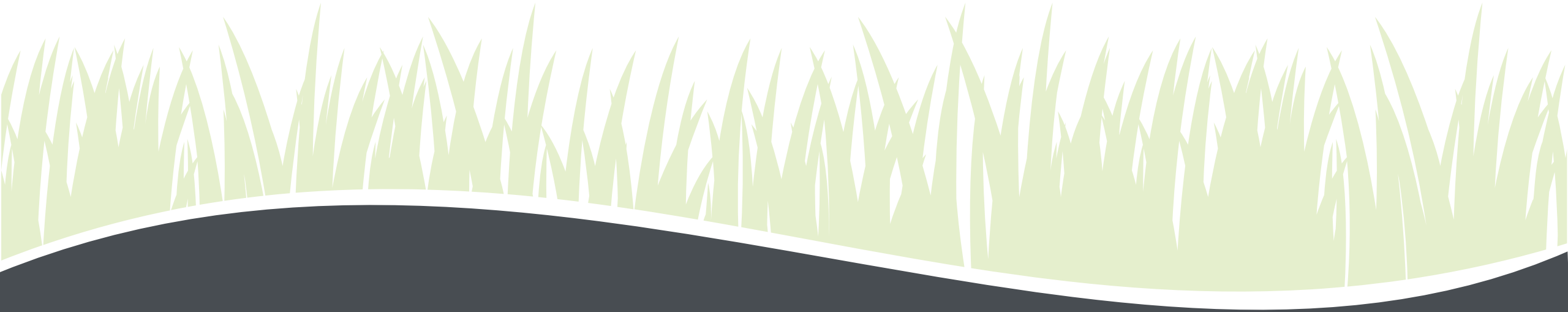


## Supporting Documents (“Other Attachments Form”)

- Resume or CV of staff that will be working on the grant
- Letters of commitment from any partners identified in the proposal in order to confirm their partnership
- List documenting past or ongoing federal and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements administered by the applicant, including documentation supporting grant performance and meeting of reporting requirements
- Documentation of non-profit status if appropriate
- Verification of proposed sources of leveraged funding



# Request for Applications Review Criteria





# Review & Grant Process



- Threshold Eligibility Determination/Notification
- Merit Review by EPA
- Review Meeting
- Selection Finalization/ Notification
- Processing by Grants Department/ Project Officer
- Award

# Scoring Criteria



## Scoring Criteria (100 Points Total)

- Regional Context (9 pts)
- Technical Assistance Network Description (30 pts)
- Collaboration (12 pts)
- Programmatic Capabilities and Past Performance (19 pts)
- Cost Effectiveness and Match (9 pts)
- Monitoring/Tracking of Results (6 pts)
- Transferability of Results (12 pts)
- Timely Expenditure of Funds (3 pts)

# Regional Context (9)



- Demonstrates familiarity and local expertise with environmental, historical, and institutional conditions in the SNEP region, including relevant advisory experience working with local communities, the States of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Tribes, and environmental organizations.
- Demonstrates their experience working in the SNEP region to convene and facilitate partnerships, understand local and regional needs, provide technical assistance, and undertake environmental projects.

# Technical Assistance Network Description (30)



- Demonstrates their ability to start this iteration of the Network and manage a comprehensive assistance Network designed to support and achieve the functions described in Section I.C. successfully.
- Demonstrates their ability to identify, secure, and oversee organizations/individuals with the expertise listed in Section I.C.
- Demonstrates their plan to create and administer a system to efficiently respond to, coordinate, track, and oversee diverse requests for technical assistance.
- Demonstrates their ability to manage multiple technical assistance providers under a variety of fiscal and institutional arrangements.
- Demonstrates their ability to communicate and interact with a variety of audiences with varying levels of capacity and knowledge.

# Collaboration (12)



- Plans to coordinate with partner organizations and specialists to leverage expertise and resources to provide technical assistance in the Region.
- Plans to coordinate with EPA-SNEP and other elements of SNEP, such as the Watershed Implementation Grant program.
- Plans to create a cohesive network of partners that can provide technical assistance services throughout the SNEP Region.

# Programmatic Capabilities and Past Performance (19)



- Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.A of the solicitation,
- History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.A of the solicitation including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not,
- Organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and
- Staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

# Cost Effectiveness and Match (9)



- Under this criterion, the reviewers will evaluate the application based on the degree to which it is cost-effective, considering the following factors: organizational overhead; indirect cost; prudent cost allocation over the life of the award; organizational and partner resources brought to the effort; consistency with proposed budget detail; and ability to administer the program and projects within the operational range of budgets provided by SNEP.

# Monitoring/Tracking of Results (6)



- Describes anticipated environmental results to be achieved.
- Describes their plan to monitor and track the outcomes, outputs, and metrics related to their proposed project.
- Describes the potential SNEP metrics they propose to track and report on during the life of the grant. (See Appendix B)



# Transferability of Results (12)



- Demonstrates how they will gather, assess, and develop information to support lessons learned from the proposed grant activities.
- Describes how they will transfer documentation/information/data/results/recommendations to SNEP, SNEP Partners, and stakeholders in the SNEP region in a timely and efficacious manner.

# Timely Expenditure of Funds (3)



- Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

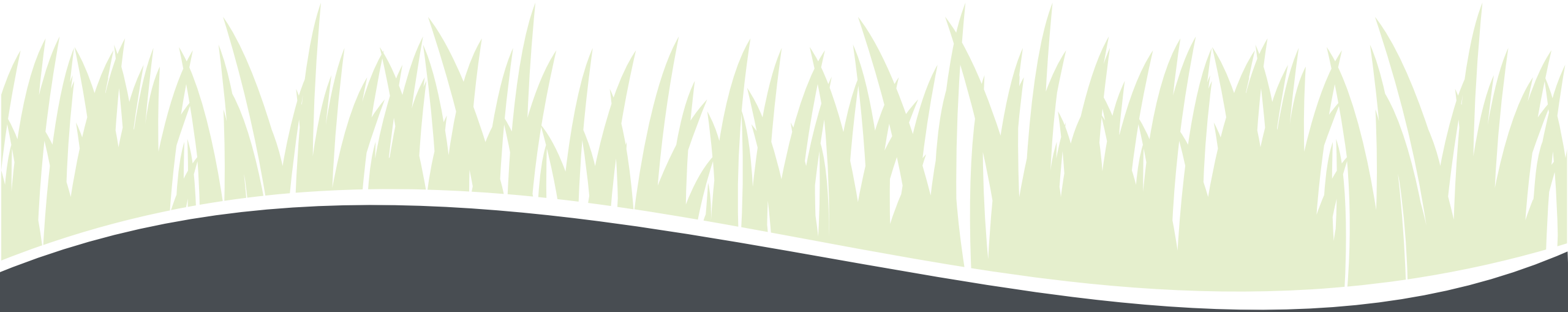


Please Direct Additional Questions to [SECoastalNE@epa.gov](mailto:SECoastalNE@epa.gov)  
by April 12, 2024, 11:59p EST

**Application Deadline: May 01, 2024, 11:59p EST**



## Question and Answer Period





**Thank You For Your Time and Attention!**

