

Massachusetts Dredging Program

2022 Grant Round

Questions and Responses

1. (A) May a municipality request funding if it intends to complete the project using a municipally owned dredge that is operated by municipal employees? (B) If so, what costs are eligible for reimbursement?

(A) Yes. Projects that propose to utilize dredging equipment that is owned and operated by the municipality and its employees are eligible for funding.

(B) In these cases, reimbursable expenses may include:

- Construction services performed and invoiced by third-party subcontractors.
- Procurement of construction material(s) necessary for dredging and/or dredged material disposal.
- Municipal employee time and salary expenses associated with actual operation of the dredge and/or other construction machinery necessary for dredging and/or dredged material disposal.

When applying for a project of this type, a municipality should incorporate the above expenses into their total project cost and should also submit a detailed breakdown of these expenses as an attachment to their application. **Please use the following File Naming Format to name this attachment: “[Anytown] Detailed Budget Breakdown.”** Please do not include “City of” or “Town of” in the file name.

2. May dredging work performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) count towards the required non-state match if such work is performed within the same harbor and by the same contractor as the proposed local project?

No. Payments made by the USACE to any contractor, whether for work associated with the proposed local project or a separate federal project in the same harbor, are not eligible for use as the required non-state match of a Massachusetts Dredging Program grant request.

3. May a municipality request funding for construction administration services performed by municipal employees, or apply the cost of these services to the match requirement?

No. Construction administration services performed by municipal employees are not eligible for grant reimbursement, nor are in-kind contributions eligible as matching funds. Please see Part II.F of the RFP for acceptable match funding sources.

4. Are there file-size restrictions when submitting attachments?

Yes. The file size of a single attachment cannot exceed 400 MB, and the collective size of all attachments cannot exceed 800 MB. In the event of a file-size error, applicants should remove attachments one at a time from the application form until the file-size restrictions are satisfied. Thereafter, the applicant should send a notification of the removed attachments to ehedgrants@mass.gov. Program staff will respond further instructions.

Please note that should a file-size error be encountered, applicants remain responsible for submission of any application no later than the date and time specified in the RFP. No late applications will be accepted.

5. Are there state data available on the blue economy?

Please see Part III.A.5 of the RFP for references to public reports on Massachusetts's coastal harbors and blue economy. These reports are referenced for informational purposes only. They do not represent the entirety of reports or research on the Commonwealth's coastal harbors or blue economy, nor is consultation of these reports a requirement or evaluation criterion of the Massachusetts Dredging Program.

6. Are communities required to use municipal funds for a project's match?

While municipalities are required to provide a 50% non-state match, funds may come from one or multiple non-state sources, as described in Part II.F of the RFP.

7. What documents are required to show proof of match?

Please see Part II.F of the RFP for details on acceptable match documentation.

8. Does a municipal bond or borrowing authorization qualify as a non-state match?

Yes.

9. If two municipalities share jurisdiction of a project site, can they split the project's match?

Yes. Two municipalities may split or share the required match, provided that the sum of all matching funds totals 50% or more of the total project cost. In cases of a split or shared match, match documentation will be required from both municipalities. Please see Part II.F of the RFP for acceptable match documentation. In addition, please see Part II.H of the RFP for contract requirements for joint awards.

10. Is maintenance dredging eligible for funding?

Yes

11. If dredging will occur both this spring (the current fiscal year) and next spring (the next fiscal year), for which season should the municipality request funding?

Per Part II.I of the RFP, all work must be completed (1) on or after the execution date of the grant contract **and** (2) within fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). In the scenario posed here, the municipality should request funding for work to be completed in spring of fiscal year 2023.

12. (A) Is the cost associated with the dredging of private docks or mooring fields eligible for reimbursement? (B) If no, can such work count towards the required non-state match of a grant request.

(A) No. Dredging of any berth, channel, or other tidelands held by a private entity or person, whether by license, grant, or lease agreement, is not eligible for funding.

(B) No. Any such work described in response (A) above is not eligible for use as the required non-state match of a Massachusetts Dredging Program grant request.

13. If a private party completes "piggyback dredging" using the same contractor as the municipality, may spending on this work count towards the required non-state match of a grant request?

No. Spending on private piggyback dredging using the same contractor as the municipality is not eligible for use as the required non-state match of a Massachusetts Dredging Program grant request.

14. May a municipality apply for funding in the current round if it received an award in the previous round?

Yes. All eligible municipalities may submit an application for a new project, regardless of whether they have previously received a Massachusetts Dredging Program award.

However, priority may be given to strong projects from applicants who have never, or have not recently, received an award.

15. Is grant funding expected to continue for the foreseeable future?

Funding for the Massachusetts Dredging Program is authorized by the 2018 Economic Development Bond Bill (Section 2A of Chapter 228 of the Acts of 2018) and is subject to future annual appropriations.

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