

FY23 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program

RFR ID: DER 2022-03

Question & Answers

Q: I am checking to see if this year's grant application process will be open to Districts (in this case Water District). Or do funds have to be funneled through the Town?

- A. Eligible applicants include all 351 Massachusetts municipalities. We encourage any interested Water Supply District to partner with a municipality to apply. As described in the RFR, eligible projects must be culvert or bridge replacements located on a public way, owned and maintained by an applying municipality, and must cross a natural freshwater, non-tidal river or stream channel. The existing structure and roadway approach should be publicly owned or be acquired through public leasehold, right-of-way or easement before execution of a grant award. If your projects do not meet these criteria, then it may be ineligible to apply.

Q: I can't find any mention of Letters of Support within the RFR. Are you able to say if they will be accepted and/or reviewed as part of the application review process?

- A. Letters of support are not required. Applicants may include letters of support as part of their supporting documentation they attach with their grant application.

Q: I noticed that you have a 20MB size limit on file uploads for grant applications. Almost all of what we will be referencing in our application is contained in a document that is larger than the application size limit, would I really need to attach it or could I merely reference sections of it in our application?

- A. You may reference relevant sections in your application. Applicants should include as part of their application materials all supporting documentation, including technical reports and analyses, design plan sets, permits, cost estimates, design or construction bids, etc. Materials referenced that are not included in the application submission will not be used as part of the evaluation process. If these documents are posted on a publicly accessible website, then you may also provide a link to the relevant documents in your application narratives. To make arrangements for submitting additional supporting documentation exceeding the 20 MB file size limit or if you have trouble with your online submission, please contact:

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617-626-1545

Q: We have a culvert on a roadway within a city-owned conservation area. Does its open space/Article 97 status affect our eligibility?

- A. All municipally owned and managed culverts on lands in which the municipality retains a municipally-held interest in the existing culvert or bridge either through ownership, public leasehold, right-of-way or easement are eligible to apply.

Q: We have a project under design now, with final design and bid specifications to be complete by July. We think this means we are shovel ready, but because we don't have that design in hand will that affect our scoring?

- A. Municipalities seeking construction funding must demonstrate that the proposed project meets the goals of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards. Application and supporting documentation should contain adequate details for the reviewers to determine if the proposed project meets the intent and goals of this grant program. Projects seeking construction funding should demonstrate the ability to obtain and secure the balance of funds and required permits prior to the start of the grant contract period (i.e., July 2022).