| APPLICATION FORMPRIORITY PROJECT PROGRAM ADVANCEMENT GRANTFY25 RFR ID: **DER 2025-PPPAG** |
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| The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, seeks grant proposals to advance restoration work for **active, existing projects within the Priority Projects Program**. The purpose of the Priority Projects Program is to provide support for proactive, voluntary ecological restoration work that presents significant benefits to the Commonwealth, through the removal of stressors that impair the function and resiliency of wetland and stream habitats. Priority Projects are implemented in collaboration with public and private partners.Applications must be submitted through [DER’s **Website**](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/priority-projects-program-advancement-grant)**.** No paper applications will be accepted.  ***Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.*** Applicants must complete and submit all required documents.**INSTRUCTIONS: Please refer to Section 5, Evaluation Criteria in the Request For Responses (RFR) for information on how applications will be evaluated.**  Below, please complete each section of the Application Form, providing as much information as you can to support the grant request. Please sign the completed Form prior to submission. Refer to the RFR for detailed guidance. |
| **APPLICANT INFORMATION** (*Boxes will expand as you fill them.)* |
| **Applicant Name:***(name of person submitting application)* |
| **Email:** | **Phone:** | **Address:**  |
| **Organization:** |
| **Applicant Affiliation with Project:** *(Please specify - Owner, Lead Project Sponsor, Established Partner, see RFR section 1.6 for details)* |
| **Priority or Provisional Project Name:** |
| **Municipality where project is located:** |
| **Total Requested Grant Amount ($):** |
| 1. **CRITICAL NEED AND URGENCY FOR SUPPORT**

*Please use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them*Applications will be scored 0-100, with a proposed project’s **critical need and urgency for support** potentially providing up to **25 points total** towards the 100 possible total points – see RFR section 5.2 for further details. |
| **Project Critical Need and Urgency for Support: Please describe the purpose, general scope of work, and need for the proposed grant. What restoration project priorities would be addressed by this work? What are the critical time sensitive components?** |
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| 1. **CAPACITY TO ADVANCE RESTORATION WORK**

*Please use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them.*Applications will be scored 0-100, with a proposed project’s **applicant and project team capacity** providing up to **20 points** toward the 100 possible total points. See RFR section 5.2 for further details. |
| **Applicant and Project Team Capacity: Please describe the applicant’s ongoing role and involvement with the Priority / Provisional Priority Project. Also, please describe the applicant’s qualifications and relevant experience for managing the proposed grant and restoration work. Are there any other resources committed to support the work?** |
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| 1. **FEASIBILITY OF PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK**

*Please use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them.*Applications will be scored 0-100, with a proposed project’s **feasibility of proposed scope of work** providing up to **25 points** toward the 100 possible total points. See RFR section 5.2 for further details. |
| **Proposed Scope of Work: Please describe the project activities associated with this grant scope of work and provide a timeline to complete each activity. Activities and timeline should align with information provided on the required Budget Form.** |
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| 1. **LIKELIHOOD OF RESTORATION PROJECT SUCCESS**

*Please use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them.*Applications will be scored 0-100, with a proposed project’s **likelihood of restoration success** providing up to **20 points** toward the 100 possible total points. See RFR section 5.2 for further details. |
| **Restoration Success: Please describe the overall restoration approach for this Priority / Provisional Priority Project and the intended goals and outcomes. How does the proposed grant scope of work advance those goals and outcomes?** |
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| 1. **PROGRESS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

*Please use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them.*Applications will be scored 0-100, with a proposed project’s **progress towards environmental justice** providing up to **10 points** toward the 100 possible total points. See RFR section 5.2 for further details. |
| **Progress Towards Environmental Justice: Please describe how the proposed restoration project will provide meaningful benefits for an Environmental Justice, Disadvantaged Community, or vulnerable population. Please see the resources at bottom[[1]](#footnote-2).** |
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| **ATTACHMENTS:**1. **REQUIRED:**
* Completed **Application Form** (*Required*)
* Completed **Budget Form** (Required)
* Commonwealth W-9 form
* **Letter of commitment** (*Required if the applicant is not the property owner*) A letter of continued commitment to the restoration project from property owner(s)
1. **OPTIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

Additional new information if applicable and **not currently on file with DER**. Such information may include but is not limited to: * Planning documents and reports
* Technical scopes of work
* Photographs
	+ Technical analyses and data / assessments
	+ Updated design plans
	+ Updated permits / permit applications
	+ Monitoring plans
	+ Pre/Construction related documents
	+ Funding commitment documentation
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| **SIGNATURE** |
| **BY SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THE TERMS AND SPECIFICATIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS RFR.** |
| **Applicant Signature:** | **Date:** |
| [ ]  By checking this box, you confirm that all supporting materials such as project plans, reports and/or documents are included with this application. |

1. Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations are defined in the [2021 EJ Policy](https://www.mass.gov/doc/environmental-justice-policy6242021-update/download) and can be viewed in the [MA EJ viewer](https://mass-eoeea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1d6f63e7762a48e5930de84ed4849212). Other vulnerable communities are people or communities who may be disproportionately impacted by issues addressed by the project. In addition to factors that contribute to designation as an EJ Population (i.e., income, race, and language), other factors like physical ability, access to transportation, health status, and age shape whether someone or their community will be disproportionately affected. Some useful tools to identify vulnerable communities include the Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience (GEAR) [Community Guide](https://resilient.mass.gov/gear/Guide?guideId=1), the Center for Disease Control’s [Social Vulnerability Index](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/interactive_map.html), the Environmental Protection Agency’s [EJScreen](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) and the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)