



## **Priority Projects Advancement Grant Questions & Answers**

### ***Q1: What is the "spend by date" for the award?***

Please see Section 1.9 for Funding Availability, awarded grants will expire no later than June 30, 2026. A final grant contract is subject to a successful negotiation of an agreed upon scope of work, budget, and contract period. Grant funds cannot be spent outside of the grant contract period.

### ***Q2: Our nonprofit leads project management/ contracts for non-construction work of large saltmarsh restoration; a DER Priority Project with its own capital line. Would 'our' project be eligible and competitive if we were to apply here? Required to apply?***

Please refer to Sections 1.6 - 1.8 for Eligible Applicant, Project, and Grant Activities information, as well as Appendix B for Ineligible Activities. All applications will be evaluated on criteria outlined in section 5.

An application is required to be considered for new grant funding. Any established grants or pre-designated project funding that is in place is unaffected by this funding opportunity.

### ***Q3: The RFR states that DER anticipates "direct funding for advancement grants to range from \$20,000 - \$500,000." Are you able to say how much total funding is available and/or how many proposals are expected to be funded?***

This grant funding opportunity will be funded by multiple funding sources (Section 1.9) which have varying budgetary requirements and availability. Grant award amounts will be determined through the award process using the evaluation criteria outlined in Section 5 to best allocate available funds to selected awardees.

Multiple grant awards will result from this funding opportunity, however the number of awards, and the total amount of funding granted to selected applicants will depend on the pool of applications that DER receives. Section 1.9 also states that projects that will complete a

significant portion of work by 6/30/26 will be prioritized.

***Q4: In appendix B, one of the ineligible activities is stand-alone invasive species treatment projects, such as lake and pond treatment. Would the removal of invasive species along a river where a dam had been removed be eligible?***

Invasive species management as part of an existing plan for restoration actions for a Priority Project is an eligible activity. Applicants who are seeking support for invasive species management should describe this proposed work in their application on the Application Form.

***Q5: Will the grant fund professional services such as (1) legal assistance, e.g., a permit appeal process, (2) registered surveyor services, e.g., for parcel boundary definition, accounting services for invoicing and financial record keeping.***

Section 1.8 (Eligible Grant Activities) of the RFR describes proposed activities that are eligible for support under this RFR. This list is not exhaustive. Please provide a detailed description of your request on the **Application Form** and on the **Budget Form** to be evaluated with your proposal. These forms can be found with application materials on DER's [website](#) and on [COMMBUYS](#).

***Q6: Is this grant 'income taxable' to an entity that is not tax exempt?***

DER is not able to determine what is considered taxable income for an applicant. We recommend applicants consult with their tax professionals for guidance. The Commonwealth Standard Contract Form and Terms and Conditions are provided in the application materials on DER's [website](#) and on [COMMBUYS](#).

***Q7: Are Lead Project Sponsor hours and expense eligible for reimbursement? Or, if not, eligible for recognition as 'in-kind' matching funds?***

Eligible Applicants/Applying Entities, which includes Lead Project Sponsors, may seek related Personnel costs as part of budgeted work. Please see the Instructions sheet on the **Budget Form** for guidance related to the **Personnel** budget category. The **Budget Form** can be found with application materials on DER's [website](#) and on [COMMBUYS](#). It contains two worksheets, *Instructions* and *Blank Budget Form*.

***Q8: Are there any conditions, e.g., an extraordinary event, allowing the funds to be used in a subsequent FY?***

A final grant contract is subject to a successful negotiation of an agreed upon scope of work, budget, and contract period. Funding may be extended into the following fiscal year at the

discretion of DER.

Section 1.9 states all awarded grants will expire no later than June 30, 2026. However, projects that will complete a significant period of work by 6/30/25 will be prioritized.

***Q9: Regarding 3.1 - Exceptions - Is there a funding limit or percentage of the sub-contract limit for 'first payments' on Construction?***

DER grants are typically cost reimbursement. If installment or milestone payments are needed to advance construction those would need to be reviewed and approved by DER on a per case basis prior to awarding a construction bid. Applicants who believe they will need this consideration should describe this information in their application on the Application Form.

A final grant contract is subject to a successful negotiation of an agreed upon scope of work, budget, and contract period.