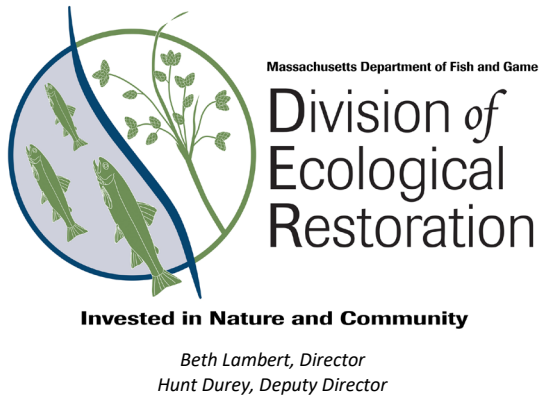


ResilientMA Dam Removal RFR Questions & Answers

Q1: My municipality received this grant last funding round. The preliminary study determined more studies need to take place prior to a removal plan to be fully created. Can we apply for this grant to continue research or is there another opportunity upcoming?

The goal of the preliminary design studies is to gather and synthesize information on a future potential dam removal project. As such, the scope of work for this opportunity is to provide a standard suite of preliminary-level technical assessments and designs to assist dam owners with the initial phase of a potential dam removal project. Further studies (such as permitting-level design) are not eligible with this opportunity, please reference section 3.1 in the RFR.

Q2: Has DER already procured qualified vendors for technical services - or will a separate RFQ/solicitation follow this one?

A separate solicitation for bids from DER's Ecological Restoration Technical Service Master Agreement Vendors (Category 1) to conduct preliminary design services will be procured separately.

Q3: The application asks for a list of previous studies in the project background section; is this list of studies specifically for the dam itself? We've had many studies about the environmental quality of the pond that is dammed, but none of the dam itself.

Any studies that include information about the dam, and/or its surrounding environment are potentially relevant and should be included in the application.

Q4: Do we have to receive Priority Project Status before we can apply for preliminary design services?

No, the overall goal of preliminary design services is to gather and synthesize information on a future potential dam removal project. The Priority Projects Program is a separate program that helps support and advance competitively selected, proactive ecological restoration projects that present significant benefits to the Commonwealth and that have landowner support. Projects that receive preliminary design services through this opportunity might consider applying to the Priority Projects Program if dam removal is pursued.

Q5: Are projects that already have Priority Project status more likely to receive the Preliminary Design services?

No, DER Priority Projects receive technical assistance, contracted technical services, and are eligible to receive grant funding through DER's Priority Projects Program.

Q6: Would a community currently out of compliance with the MBTA Community Law be eligible to apply?

Q7: Can we qualify for the Preliminary Design Services if we are not currently in compliance with the MBTA Communities Act?

A: The receipt of grant funds is contingent upon the grantee being able to certify that it will comply with the Massachusetts General Laws, including G.L. c. 40A, § 3A, the MBTA Communities Act. Compliance with the MBTA Communities Act is determined by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

Q8: Can we send attachments in as part of the application (for example a .pdf) document listing all of the related reports and studies, letter of support or photographs? etc.. that have been done on the dam?

Yes, applicants may include related documents in the 'Optional Additional Documents' section found at the end of the application.

Q9: As part of the application, should we include location maps such as the USGS map, or should we only supply what is asked for in the application form?

Yes, applicants may include related documents in the 'Optional Additional Documents' section found at the end of the application.

Q10: We recently received SNEP SWIG funds to study the removal of a town-owned dam but are in need of matching funds. Can the DER Dam Removal preliminary design services program serve as a match?

Selected sites will not receive grant funding from DER. Preliminary studies will be directly contracted between DER and a qualified engineering firm. Please reference

section 1.1. DER cannot determine if this program is eligible match for other grant programs.

Q11: My town is anxious about money. How are the preliminary design studies paid for? How are dam removal projects paid/funded? Thank you

DER directly contracts with a qualified engineering firm and manages the preliminary design study for the selected dam sites, see section 1.1.

The actual removal of the dam is outside the scope of this RFR.
Please note in section 3.2,

“There is no obligation for a municipality to move forward with a selected dam removal project after the preliminary design work is complete. Nor is there any guarantee of further assistance from DER after this effort concludes.”

Information on funding a dam removal project can be found through [Dam Busters](#) / Massachusetts Rivers Alliance.

Q12: Can we submit letters of support/recommendation with the application and if submitted will they be reviewed?

Yes, applicants may include related documents in the ‘Optional Additional Documents’ section found at the end of the application and they will be reviewed as part of the application.