

NOTICE OF UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance (CRMA) and Training Site Grant Programs

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, seeks proposals to replace undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts located in areas of high ecological value. The purpose of these grant programs are to encourage municipalities to replace culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria.

Below you can find information on what to expect from the upcoming Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance (CRMA) and *Training Site* Grant opportunity. A single Request for Response (RFR) is anticipated for both programs. The *Culvert Replacement Training Site* program is new to FY25 (see last page for more details).

Only projects that intend to meet the goals of the [Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards](#) will be considered for funding. Projects should be designed to facilitate fish & wildlife passage, maintain the natural movement of water and sediment through the stream crossing, and reconnect upstream and downstream habitat. Use of these Standards to design culverts improves river function and access for fish and wildlife, and reduces hazards to public safety, such as flooding, culvert failure, and road washout.

Massachusetts municipalities, regional planning agencies and political subdivisions may be eligible to apply for funding to support advancing single or multiple culvert replacement project(s) on the same stream reach toward completion.

Proposal Calendar:

See next pages for more details

Now accepting -Project Inquiries through **Thursday, January 18, 2024**. Set up a call with DER staff prior to issuance of RFR (*this step is recommended, but optional*).

Grant Materials, including FAQs and program summary information will be posted on [COMMBUYS](#) with other technical resources available on the [Division's website](#) mid-January, 2024.

Pre-RFR Grant Briefing Presentation will be held on **Tuesday, January 16 at 1pm**.

Request for Responses anticipated to be issued **early-February, 2024**.

Application Deadline is anticipated **early March, 2024**.

Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program

In general, **individual CRMA awards have ranged from \$25,000 to \$400,000**, depending on the project phases and work proposed. Awards between \$200,000 and \$500,000 are anticipated for construction projects only. Work must be completed by June 30, 2025 with award dates anticipated in the summer of 2024.

New in Fiscal Year 2025:

Culvert Replacement Training Site Program

DER's Culvert Replacement Training Sites serve as case studies and provide in-depth training opportunities for local road managers and surrounding communities. Municipalities meeting certain additional eligibility requirements may elect to be considered for status as one of DER's *Culvert Replacement Training Sites*.

Designated Sites are anticipated to be eligible for incentive grant funding when available and technical assistance until the culvert replacement project is completed, or new information warrants a revision of project status. **Applicants with projects in the planning or field data collection phases (i.e. new projects) are anticipated to have the option to apply to become a DER Culvert Replacement Training Site.**

Optional Step – Project Inquiry Call

Potential applicants are encouraged to set up a Project Inquiry call by scheduling a time by clicking below or copy/pasting the following in your web browser:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/DERStreamContinuityProjectInquiriesFY24@massgov.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

DER staff will meet with you before the RFR is released to discuss your potential project(s). Potential applicants will be asked to provide basic project information in advance of the call so DER staff can be better prepared to discuss projects with potential applicants. For other questions, contact DERculverts@mass.gov.

This process is recommended, but optional and intended to provide potential applicants with feedback on their project before submitting an application during the RFR period.

Project Inquiries must be sent by Thursday, January 18, 2024.

Optional Step - Pre-RFR Grant Briefing Presentation

DER will hold one Pre-RFR informational presentation via Zoom to answer general questions related to the upcoming grant opportunity before the FY25 CRMA and Training Sites RFR is issued. Call-in options will also be provided. DER encourages all potential grant applicants to participate. The presentation will be held on Tuesday, January 16 at 1pm. To participate, you must register by 10 am the day of the presentation. To register, click below or copy and paste the following address into your web browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldeqtrjgpG9Nc66su9u0nm3Ls8u5grD7Z#/registration>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the presentation.

Grant Resources

Grant materials and resources are intended to be posted **mid-January, 2024**. Grant materials explaining the funding opportunity, project eligibility, and review criteria will be posted to [COMMBUYS](#). Additional technical resources will be available on the Division of Ecological Restoration's website (<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/culvert-replacement-municipal-assistance-grant-program>). We encourage applicants to review these materials in order to learn more about the funding opportunity and grant program.

RFR Issuance

The RFR is anticipated to be released early-February, 2024. The application deadline for this grant opportunity is anticipated early-March, 2024.

Under state procurement regulations, DER and other state staff will not be able to discuss projects with proponents once the RFR is issued. We strongly recommend all potential grant applicants to participate in the Pre-RFR Grant Briefing Conference Call and/or schedule a Project Inquiry call as outlined above, **however these steps are not required to submit an application.**