

## NOTICE OF UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITY

### Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, seeks proposals from Massachusetts municipalities interested in replacing undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts located in areas of high ecological value. The purpose of this funding is to encourage municipalities to replace culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria. In general, **individual awards have ranged from \$25,000 to \$400,000**, depending on the project phases and work proposed. Awards over \$200,000 are anticipated for construction projects only.

Below you can find information on what to expect from the Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance (CRMA) Grant Program's pre-RFR (pre-Request for Responses) and RFR (Request for Responses) periods.

**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 are eligible to apply for funding to support advancing single or multiple culvert replacement project(s) on the same stream reach toward completion.

#### **Now Accepting – Pre-RFR Project Inquiries**

Potential applicants interested in applying to the FY23 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance grant round are strongly encouraged to e-mail [DERCulverts@mass.gov](mailto:DERCulverts@mass.gov) to submit a Pre-RFR Project Inquiry. DER staff will contact you before the next RFR is released to discuss your project(s) eligibility. Interested applicants will be asked to provide basic project

#### **Procurement Calendar:**

***Now accepting – Pre-RFR Project Inquiries*** are due by **Monday, January 31, 2022** in order to set-up a conference call with DER staff prior to issuance of RFR (*Optional*).

**Pre-RFR Grant Materials**, including FAQs and pre-recorded Grant Briefing, will be posted on the Division's Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program website **mid-January 2022**.

**Pre-RFR Informational Conference Call** will be held on **Thursday, January 27 at 1pm**.

**Request for Responses** to be issued **February 14, 2022**.

information so DER staff can be better prepared to discuss projects with potential applicants. ***This process is optional*** and intended to provide potential applicants with feedback on their project before submitting an application during the Request for Response (RFR) period. **Pre-RFR Project Inquiries are due by Monday, January 31, 2022.**

### **Grant Briefing and Resources**

We encourage applicants to check the Division of Ecological Restoration's website **mid-January, 2022** (<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/culvert-replacement-municipal-assistance-grant-program>) for pre-recorded grant briefings and other grant resources which will explain this funding opportunity, project eligibility, and review criteria.

### **Pre-RFR Informational Conference Call**

DER will hold one Pre-RFR informational conference call via Zoom to answer general questions related to the upcoming grant opportunity before the FY23 CRMA RFR is issued. DER encourages all potential grant applicants to participate in the call. The call will be held **on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 1pm**. To participate, you must register by 10 am the day of the call. To register, copy and paste the following address into your web browser: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlc-qorT0uH9TcOVMzRvzctKZtigxc\\_pnv](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlc-qorT0uH9TcOVMzRvzctKZtigxc_pnv)

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

### **RFR Issuance**

***The RFR is anticipated to be released on February 14, 2022. The application deadline for this grant opportunity is March 14, 2022.***

Under state procurement regulations, DER and other state staff will not discuss projects with proponents once the RFR is issued. We strongly recommend all potential grant applicants to participate in the Pre-RFR Informational Conference Call and/or submit a project inquiry as outlined above.