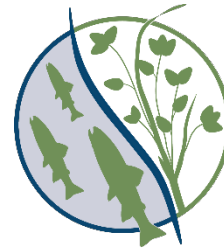


Notice of Funding Opportunity

Priority Projects Program Advancement Grant - Fiscal Year 2026



Invested in Nature & Community

This is an announcement only

Overview

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, intends to post a Request for Response (RFR) to seek grant proposals to advance restoration work for existing projects within the Priority Projects Program. The purpose of the Priority Projects Program is to support proactive and voluntary ecological restoration work which presents significant benefits to the Commonwealth by engaging in restoration efforts to remove stressors that impair the function and resiliency of wetland and stream habitats with public and private entities.

Applications should align with DER's mission to restore and protect the Commonwealth's rivers, wetlands, and watersheds for the benefit of people and the environment. DER is interested in funding existing projects which are at any stage of development falling under the Priority Projects Program including dam removal, river restoration and stream crossing upgrades, cranberry bog restoration, coastal and freshwater wetland restoration, and urban river revitalization or combinations thereof.

A single Request for Responses (RFR) will be released to solicit and award grants for state fiscal year 2026. The RFR will be posted on [COMMBUYS](#) and grant applications will be accepted through [DER's website](#).

Eligible Projects

Existing projects that have already been accepted into the Priority Projects Program and are in good standing with DER are eligible to apply to this grant opportunity. Entities interested in being considered for a grant in state fiscal year 2026 must submit an application to the upcoming Request for Response. Projects that have not been accepted into the Priority Projects Program will not be eligible for funding, and therefore, will not be considered at this time.

Only existing projects within the Priority Projects Program targeting restoration in the boundaries of the Commonwealth are eligible and must include a dam removal, stream crossing upgrade or other river restoration technique, cranberry bog restoration, coastal wetland restoration, freshwater wetland restoration, urban river revitalization, or combinations thereof.

Eligible Applicants

Any Lead Project Sponsor, State, Regional, Municipal, Tribal government, Non-Governmental Organization, public or private entity that either owns or has the permission by the landowner of the existing project within the Priority Projects Program to advance restoration work is eligible to be considered for grant funding. Federal agencies will not be considered as eligible applicants for this funding opportunity at this time. Additionally, for-profit firms that are not project site landowners will not be considered as eligible applicants.

Eligible applicants must be an active stakeholder for the existing project within the Priority Projects Program and clearly demonstrate their ongoing collaborative partnership to advance restoration work.

The receipt of grant funds is contingent upon the grantee (if a municipality) 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.

Request for Response (RFR)

The Request For Response is expected to be released in November with a minimum of two weeks to apply. A formal written question and answer period will be held prior to the submission deadline. Grant awards will commence in state fiscal year 2026. A complete timeline will be included in the RFR posting on [COMMBUYS](#) and [DER's website](#).

DER reserves the right to award additional grants to applicants from the RFR if additional funding becomes available later in state fiscal year 2026.

Applicants are solely responsible to monitor [COMMBUYS](#) for amendments to this announcement, if any, and for the complete RFR posting, if any. Applicants may monitor the site through publicly accessible search and browse tools in addition to visiting [DER's website](#).