**Frequently Asked Questions**

**NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY HARBOR & ESTUARY PROGRAM**

**Advancing Habitat Restoration in Disadvantaged Communities Grant**

**April 27, 2023**

 **Q.** Can funding be used to hire new staff?

Yes. Funding can be used to pay salary costs, any fringe benefits and/or indirect costs associated with new and/or existing staff.  See the RFP for details on limits on fringe and indirect costs.

**Q.** Is there a page limit on the letters of inquiry?

There is not a strict limit, but we appreciate brevity. Please keep it to no more than two pages.

**Q.** Would a project that added a small part of a larger project be competitive? For example, adding stewardship and volunteer events to build community support and engagement at a site with an already funded project design?

Yes!  Community engagement that builds support for or allows community input on a restoration project would be competitive.  While providing a match is not a requirement, we are looking for proposals that are able to demonstrate they are leveraging prior commitments, existing resources, or are intended to lead to future funding requests.

**Q.** Are projects that improve waterways, waterfronts and public spaces adjacent to disadvantaged communities eligible?  What about projects that serve people living in disadvantaged communities, for example, an educational or workforce training program located in a nearby community?

A project will be considered eligible if it is located in and/or primarily serving residents of an area identified under any of the four demographic and geographic indicators included in HEP’s [definition and mapping](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1mt0aj9oRZDHasAZO3PIYVMDpd4uwu_g&ll=41.51375870876782%2C-74.15552850000002&z=8) of disadvantaged communities.  Primarily serving is defined as projects in waterways, public parks, and other public spaces immediately adjacent to disadvantaged residential communities or explicitly serving those populations (such as educational or workforce training projects).

Q. Will the webinars be recorded?

Yes. All the informational webinars about the grants will be recorded and posted under their grants on our website: <https://www.hudsonriver.org/grants#hep-grants>

**Q.** Do projects need to relate specifically to restoration of one or more of the 12 Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) included in the Hudson Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan or can they involve advancing general programmatic objectives such as habitat education, research and STEM services and interpretation, upland habitat protection impacting the waterways, etc?

Proposals should be able to reference how the work will help advance progress towards any one or a combination of any of the 12 TECs in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan. This should be done through advancing a specific restoration project, although proposals focusing on more general programmatic objectives associated with the restoration project are fine.