

**Please note the following
deadline:**

Hudson River Research Grants
Proposals due:
August 27, 2021

**HUDSON
RIVER
FOUNDATION**

FOR SCIENCE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH

**Hudson River
Fund**

**Call for Small Grants
Focused on
Innovation and
Synthesis**

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www.hudsonriver.org

THE HUDSON RIVER FOUNDATION

The Hudson River Foundation supports scientific and public policy research, education, and projects to enhance public access to the Hudson River. The Foundation was established in 1981 under the terms of an agreement among environmental groups, government regulatory agencies and utility companies seeking the constructive resolution of a long series of legal controversies concerning the environmental impacts of power plants on the Hudson River. The Foundation's principal funding source is the **Hudson River Fund**, which was created in recognition of the critical need for an independent institution to sponsor scientific research programs that would contribute to the development of sound public policy concerning the River's ecological systems.

In 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected the Foundation to manage the **New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP)**. HEP is one of 28 National Estuary Programs established under the 1987 Clean Water Act to identify, restore, and protect nationally significant estuaries of the United States. The Foundation carefully considers the goals and objectives contained in HEP's 2017-2022 Action Agenda and other core documents (<https://www.hudsonriver.org/article/core-hep-documents>) when designating research priorities. The Foundation also actively participates in, and draws insight from, the New York State Hudson River Estuary Management Program. The draft Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2021-2025 is available at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5104.html. Please visit the Foundation's website (www.hudsonriver.org) for more information regarding programs and research funding.

THE HUDSON RIVER FUND

BACKGROUND

Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement that established it, the Hudson River Fund is dedicated to supporting:

“scientific, ecological, and related public policy research on issues and matters of concern to the Hudson River, its tributaries, and its drainage basin, with emphasis given, but not limited to, mitigating fishery impacts caused by power plants, providing information needed to manage the fishery resources of the Hudson River, understanding the factors related to the abundance and structure of fish populations, and gaining knowledge of the Hudson River ecosystem.”

The Hudson River Fund supports scientific research on all aspects of the Hudson River ecosystem, with emphasis on studies that bear on its human uses. Since utilization of fishery resources and other human uses have been dominant issues in the estuarine portion of the River (New York Harbor to the Troy Dam), the Foundation devotes particular attention to this part of the Hudson River ecosystem. However, the Foundation will consider proposals related to any part of the watershed or nearby coastal areas. Such areas are defined as those that either serve as seasonal habitats for biota of the Hudson River Estuary, or influence the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of the Estuary in other ways. The Foundation places special emphasis

on research that has clearly articulated significance for identified policy issues and is conducted in the context of other ongoing research and monitoring in the River and its watershed. Although the central purpose of the Hudson River Fund is to sponsor research in the natural sciences and public policy, the Foundation recognizes that humans are integral to the ecosystem and is therefore interested in research that can provide insights on the interaction of social, economic and biophysical systems, especially studies that can provide new information leading to improved management policies. The Foundation continues to believe that funding a portfolio of projects, including research that may address both immediate and emerging environmental policy issues, is important to, and eagerly sought by, both the research community and the government agencies with Hudson River management responsibilities.

The Foundation seeks to advance understanding of the issues affecting the River by supporting the dissemination of information gained through Foundation-funded research programs and through other sources. The Foundation sponsors workshops and conferences, bringing together authorities working within the Hudson River Valley and elsewhere to discuss scientific and public policy issues. Reports from these meetings give direction for further scientific work and improve the information used as a basis for public policy decisions.

HRF is committed to serving the diverse communities of the Hudson River and to facilitating an ongoing and inclusive dialogue with scientists, managers, policy makers, other stakeholders, and the general public, to address the environmental and societal challenges facing the community of the Hudson River and Watershed. We seek to enhance this work by supporting researchers and students, with the unique and varied backgrounds, circumstances, needs, and perspectives that reflect the diversity of our community.

THE HUDSON RIVER FUND 2021

Small Grants Focused on Innovation and Synthesis

There will be one formal funding cycle in 2021 for Hudson River Research Grants. This year's Call for Proposals will focus on identifying a limited number of projects that reflect the Foundation's interest in innovative approaches to understanding current and emerging issues for the Hudson River Estuary and Watershed. We are particularly interested in projects that:

- Provide focused outcomes and serve as a catalyst for additional research.
- Synthesize existing data, especially social and biophysical information that is relevant to understanding how social, economic, and natural systems are coupled in the Hudson River ecosystem.
- Complete and/or advance ongoing projects to achieve more innovative or comprehensive outcomes, particularly those that can inform policy and decision making.
- Provide opportunities for partnerships with the Foundation that can lead to productive engagement with decisionmakers from communities who can benefit from the results of research.

The Foundation intends to fund a limited number of short-duration proposals in 2021. We are targeting projects that can be completed within 12-months, with budgets in the \$30,000-\$50,000 range.

We invite proposals that can address issues consistent with our mission to provide important scientific insights needed to advance the conservation and restoration of the Hudson River ecosystem. Areas of interest for this special competition include, but are not limited to:

- *Environmental and Climate Justice*: Research to assess and synthesize current knowledge of the public health risks (e.g., contaminants and pathogens) presented by coastal and stormwater flooding in environmental justice communities. Research may include comprehensive assessment of current research, data, and risks across a spectrum of sources of flooding. We are particularly interested in projects that can fill knowledge gaps that may help public agencies and civic organizations in the Hudson River Estuary and Watershed determine the most effective means of addressing and/or communicating risk.
- *Water Quality*: Research and synthesis that build upon current monitoring data, modeling, and other approaches, that can provide managers with a better understanding of the extent and variability of critical water quality parameters (e.g., fecal pathogens, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and sediment) throughout the Hudson River Estuary and Watershed. Advancing safe recreational use, understanding implications for habitat, and/or addressing the implications of climate change on water quality are of special interest especially when such projects address priority, shared water quality issues in New York and New Jersey.
- *Climate Change Impacts on the Ecosystem*: Research to further explicate the impacts of climate change on natural communities and their interactions (e.g., anticipated changes to key fisheries, changes in ecosystem characteristics, etc.) throughout the Hudson River Estuary and Watershed.
- *Emerging issues of concern*: Novel research and synthesis regarding any aspect of the environmental and social components of the ecosystem and their interactions, particularly topics where findings may lead to a better understanding of issues that will require policy and management responses in the future.

Those who are interested in applying are strongly encouraged to contact the Foundation to discuss their ideas prior to submitting a proposal. Please email Jonathan Kramer (jkramer@hudsonriver.org) or James Lodge (jim@hudsonriver.org).

Hudson River Research Grant Policies and Application Procedures

Proposals are sought from researchers at colleges and universities; other non-profit institutions; profit-making institutions; government (local, state, and federal) agencies; and unaffiliated researchers. The Foundation prefers, but does not require, that unaffiliated researchers seek some institutional affiliation for the purpose of conducting the proposed research. There are no geographic restrictions on the location of either the investigator or the institution.

The Foundation encourages those who have not received funding from the Foundation previously and researchers from the social and behavioral sciences to consider this opportunity. In addition, we are particularly interested in applications from postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers who are within five years post-completion of postdoctoral or graduate studies.

Submitting Proposals

Proposals submitted for 2021 Hudson River Research Grants must be submitted **electronically in pdf format in accordance with instructions on our website, www.hudsonriver.org**, by **5:00 pm, August 27, 2021**. Please see below for further information regarding requirements for each proposal.

Proposal Design

Proposals should be submitted to proposal@hudsonriver.org as a single pdf document and include the sections described below insofar as they are applicable. Standardized forms, which should be used for each application, can be found on the Foundation's website, www.hudsonriver.org.

The main body of the proposal should be as succinct as possible, and no longer than 6 typewritten, single-spaced pages. Appendices are limited to the documents described below.

The proposal should contain, in the order indicated:

1. *Proposal Cover Page* - The Proposal Cover Page form is provided on the Foundation's website, www.hudsonriver.org.
2. *Proposal Abstract* - A brief, topical abstract (200 words or less) using the Proposal Abstract form provided on the Foundation's website.
3. *Proposal Budget Summary* - The required Proposal Budget Summary form and instructions for completing this form can also be found on the Foundation's website. A written justifications of expenditures should be provided in the Appendices. In general, the Foundation will reimburse indirect costs up to 15 percent of the modified total direct costs (modified to exclude certain large equipment purchases and subcontractor services).
4. *Table of Contents*
5. *Project Description*: The following sections should be included in the main body of the proposal which is limited to a total of 6 pages, single-spaced, in a standard 12 point font.

Statement discussing the relevance of the project to the overall mission of the Foundation and the Hudson River Fund to "make science integral to decision-making with regard to the Hudson River and its watershed and to support competent stewardship of this extraordinary resource."

Statement of hypothesis, research goals and objectives.

Description of the research approach and methods needed to meet objectives, based on current knowledge in the field of study, showing the relationship between proposed accomplishments and existing information. Include a description of specifically how data are to be collected, analyzed, and results interpreted in the context of appropriate models and other synthesis frameworks.

Significance of the research in its field of knowledge, and its relationship to other ongoing research and monitoring in the Hudson River ecosystem. The critical information or building blocks of knowledge to be provided by the proposed work should be clear, as should its implications for any public policy issues.

6. *Appendices (as needed)*

List of specific tasks: If not otherwise explained in the project description, an itemized list of the steps to be performed. If field work is proposed, maps depicting the sampling locations must be submitted. The Foundation has base maps of the entire Hudson Estuary that can be supplied to investigators upon request (2-pages maximum).

Data Table (if applicable): If the project is a synthesis of existing data, include a table of data sources. If data are not in the public domain, include confirmation that access has been granted.

Budget Justification: A brief narrative explaining projected expenditures including the need for special equipment items, extensive personnel, or use of facilities. **Please note:** It is the policy of the Foundation to disallow the charging of student tuition and profits or fees on research grants, and to encourage cost-sharing by the applicant's institution. *In general, the Foundation will reimburse indirect costs up to 15 percent of the modified total direct costs (modified to exclude certain large equipment purchases and subcontractor services).*

Results from prior Hudson River Foundation support (1-page): If the proposed project continues research previously supported by the Foundation, this section should present a brief, up-to-date progress report. If the work is new, please list the title(s) and main products of any other project(s) previously supported by the Foundation.

List of current and pending research grants or contract support. Include the project title, agency, or foundation sponsoring the research, period of support, time commitment, and amount of award. Mention areas of overlap with the current proposal, if any, and describe time commitments for the principal investigator(s).

Bibliography: Include a complete list of references cited. Please include article titles.

Resume(s): Include an up-to-date resume or curriculum vitae (*two-page maximum*) of investigator(s) and key support personnel.

The proposal with signatures on the Cover Page must be submitted electronically to proposal@hudsonriver.org in one pdf document. Appendices, must be included as part of the proposal. To avoid delay in the review process, the proposal should be complete at the time of submission. Full proposals will be due by 5:00 pm, **August 27, 2021.** **In addition, one copy containing original signatures by the Institutional Representative and Principal Investigator on the Cover Page, must be sent to James Lodge Hudson River Foundation, 17 Battery Place, Suite 915, New York, New York 10004.**

Special Conditions

Confidentiality, to the extent possible, will be maintained in the review process, and proposals shall not be used for any purpose other than evaluation of merit for funding. Applicants are encouraged to draw the Foundation's attention to confidential or proprietary information contained in the proposal.

Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals

Hudson River Research Grants are awarded after a rigorous review process, including peer review. Decisions are made on the basis of the following factors: 1) the appropriateness of the proposed study to the mission of the Foundation and, specifically, the relevance of the project to the priorities described above; 2) technical merit; 3) qualifications of the investigators and adequacy of facilities for carrying out the proposed research; 4) costs; and 5) likelihood of success, including the potential that the findings will catalyze future research and the publication of the research results in peer-refereed journals. In the case of continuing projects, consideration will also be given to the level of progress achieved to date.

The Grant Award

Notification of Hudson River Research Grant awards will be made in October 2021. After initial approval, the Foundation will arrange specific grant terms with successful applicants.

HUDSON RIVER FOUNDATION STAFF

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