

Hudson River Foundation

For Science and Environmental Research

Hudson River Fund

2022 Grant Programs

Program I:
Small Grants Focused
on Innovation and
Synthesis

Proposals Due: January 2023



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. Please visit the Foundation's [website](#) for more information regarding programs and research funding.

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](#) 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 [here](#).

THE HUDSON RIVER FUND

BACKGROUND

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, cultural, 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 those 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 and convenes those 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 2022 Funding Cycle

Please note that we are soliciting proposals under two separate programs with different priorities, focus areas and approaches to generate research insights. Those interested in applying should carefully read and consider which program is most appropriate for their intended research.

All prospective applicants must contact the Foundation to discuss their proposals prior to submission. Please send a message to: RFP2022@hudsonriver.org to set up a time for a call.

The instructions that follow are specifically for Program I. Small Grants Focused on Innovation and Synthesis

Program I. Small Grants Focused on Innovation and Synthesis

The Foundation will focus on identifying 3-5 projects that reflect our commitment to supporting innovative approaches to understanding current and emerging issues for the Hudson River Estuary and Watershed. We are targeting projects that can be completed within 12-months, with budgets not to exceed \$50,000.

We encourage 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.

We invite proposals that can address issues consistent with our mission to provide important scientific insights needed to inform and advance decision making pertinent to the management and restoration of the Hudson River ecosystem. Areas of interest for this competition include:

- *Social, Cultural and/or Economic Drivers of Change in the HRE and its Watershed*
- *Climate Change Impacts on the Ecosystem*
- *Emerging and/or Understudied Issues of Concern*

We are particularly interested in projects that:

- Initiate research using novel approaches and serve as a catalyst for additional research.
- Provide focused outcomes, which over appropriate timescales, can inform policy and decision making.
- 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.
- Provide opportunities for leveraged funding that can enhance the research project.

Proposals are sought from researchers at colleges and universities; other non-profit institutions; profit-making institutions and government (local, state, and federal) agencies. There are no geographic restrictions on the location of either the investigator or the institution.

Those who are interested in applying must contact the Foundation to discuss their ideas prior to submitting a proposal. Please send a message to: RFP2022@hudsonriver.org to set up a time for a call.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Program I: Small Grants Focused on Innovation and Synthesis

Those who are interested in applying must contact the Foundation to discuss their ideas prior to submitting a proposal. Please send a message to: RFP2022@hudsonriver.org to set up a time for a call.

Preparing and Submitting Your Proposal

Proposal Deadline

Proposals submitted for 2022 Hudson River Research Grants must be submitted **electronically in pdf format by 5:00 pm, January 27, 2023**. Please see below for further information regarding submittal requirements.

Required Sections

Proposals should be submitted to RFP2022@Hudsonriver.org as a single pdf document and include the sections described below insofar as they are applicable. The proposal should be as succinct as possible and contain the documents/sections listed below. The project description section should be 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* – Cover Page template can be found [here](#).
2. *Proposal Abstract* – Abstract template can be found [here](#).
3. *Proposal Budget Summary* – Budget Summary template and instructions can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
4. *Table of Contents*
5. *Project Description* – The following subsections should be included in the Project Description which is limited to a total of 6 pages, single-spaced, in a standard 12-point font. The required subsections include:
 - *Relevance*: A 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."
 - *Hypothesis, Research Goals, and Objectives*: A statement that clearly articulates the key research hypothesis and specific goals and objectives for this study.

- *Research Approach and Methodology*: A description of the overall research approach and specific methodology that will be used to meet the objectives. Provide a rationale 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*: A statement that shows how the proposed research is significant/novel in its field of knowledge, and its relationship to other ongoing research and monitoring in the Hudson River ecosystem. **The knowledge to be provided by the proposed work should be clear. If possible, discuss implications for public policy issues and/or management decisions.**
6. *Budget Justification* – The budget justification should provide 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).*
7. *Appendices (limited to the following sections as needed)*
- *List of specific tasks (2-pages maximum)*: If not otherwise explained in the project description, an itemized list of the tasks 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.
 - *Data Table*: 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.
 - *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).

8. *Bibliography*: Include a complete list of references cited. Please include article titles.
9. *Curriculum Vitae*: Include an up-to-date curriculum vitae (*two-page maximum*) of the investigator(s) and key support personnel.

The proposal with signatures on the Cover Page must be submitted electronically to RFP2022@Hudsonriver.org in one pdf document. Appendices must be included as part of the single proposal document. 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, **January 27, 2023**.

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 are expected to be made in **April 2023**. After initial approval, the Foundation will arrange specific grant terms with successful applicants.

HUDSON RIVER FOUNDATION STAFF

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