

Hudson River Fund

2022 Grant Programs

Program II: Team-Based Research Addressing Priority Issues

Letter of Intent Due: December 2022



**HUDSON
RIVER
FOUNDATION**

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 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. Those interested in applying should carefully read and consider which program is most appropriate for the research they are interested in conducting.

Those who wish to apply for either program **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 II: Team-based Research Addressing Priority Issues and Opportunities

Program II. Team-based Research Addressing Priority Issues and Opportunities

The constantly evolving interactions among the environmental, social, and cultural components of the Hudson River Estuary have shaped this unique ecosystem and our collective sense of its value. From its rural headwaters to the heavily populated estuary and ultimately to its confluence with the Atlantic Ocean, the Hudson provides a multitude of services that benefit human and natural communities. However, there are numerous challenges to sustaining and restoring this vital resource, each a reflection of the complex interactions between people and the environment. Policy and management actions to address these challenges need to be informed by research contributions. At the Foundation, we recognize that such contributions often emerge from an interdisciplinary approach that builds on the shared strengths of a team of researchers who can effectively integrate their skills in new ways. In this request for proposals, HRF is interested in supporting up to three teams to provide research insights that can advance our understanding of the problems and potential solutions in two priority focus areas:

- *Enhancing Subtidal Shallow Water Habitat in the Urbanized Estuary*: Research examining the environmental, social and policy opportunities and barriers to achieving effective enhancement of the shallow, subtidal littoral zone as a necessary precursor to ecological restoration in the New York & New Jersey Harbor and its urbanized tributaries.
- *Climate Change Impacts in the Hudson River Watershed*: Research to enhance our understanding and capacity to predict and manage the environmental and social consequences of an increasing occurrence and variability of extreme weather and climate events (e.g., precipitation, drought, winter warming) over local to regional scales in the Hudson River and its watershed.

We are particularly interested in supporting small teams that include the appropriate mix of disciplines needed to effectively address the research question(s) posed. Priority will be given to those teams that can demonstrate how they will integrate their individual contributions in ways that create a unified approach and are able to clearly articulate how the products of their efforts can inform solutions over an appropriate timeframe.

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.

The Foundation intends to fund up to three proposals in 2023. In this solicitation, we are targeting projects that can be completed within 24-months, with budgets not to exceed \$175,000.

Those who are interested in applying must contact the Foundation to discuss their ideas prior to submitting a proposal. These informal conversations will help determine the alignment of the potential project with the focus areas in the RFP, provide an opportunity to discuss how the principal investigator(s) are thinking about the opportunities and challenges in facilitating an interdisciplinary team, and what the Foundation might do to assist that effort. **Please send a message to: RFP2022@hudsonriver.org to set up a time for a call.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Program II: Team-based Research Addressing Priority Issues and Opportunities

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.

After speaking with Foundation staff, those that wish to apply should prepare and submit a brief letter of intent that the Foundation can evaluate to determine how well the project aligns with our mission and the specific goals of this solicitation.

We emphasize that the letter is required to be brief (2-pages maximum). To be most useful, please include the following information:

1. The title of the project and contact information for the lead investigator.
2. The priority area your work will address and a brief description of the specific issue/questions on which your team will focus.
3. Why the knowledge gained will be important and its applicability to current or future management/policy actions.
4. A brief description of your team's approach to the research questions.
5. A description of the team members and their disciplines. What will each bring to the project?
6. Your approach to integrating the team members' disciplinary expertise to achieve a unified product.

The letter must be submitted to RFP2022@Hudsonriver.org as an email attachment in PDF format **by 5:00 pm, December 15, 2022.**

The Foundation will review all the letters and will invite a subset to submit a full proposal. We anticipate that these decisions will be announced no later than **January 5, 2023.** Those teams invited to the next round will be contacted by the Foundation with information regarding the format of the full proposal and to discuss suggestions for improvements that would increase the likelihood of success and potential impacts of the work.

Full proposals will be due no later than **5:00 pm, March 2, 2023.**

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