



## AMERICAN RIVERS-NOAA COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP



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# FUNDING GUIDELINES

American Rivers, through its habitat restoration partnership with the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program, provides funding for stream barrier removal projects benefiting diadromous fish species.<sup>1</sup> Program funding is through NOAA's Open Rivers Initiative, which seeks to enable environmental and economic renewal in local communities through barrier removal. Eligible recipients include: individuals; organizations such as civic associations and conservation groups; state, local and Tribal governments; and other commercial<sup>2</sup> and non-profit organizations. Federal agencies are not eligible to apply. American Rivers and NOAA reserve the right to determine, at their sole discretion, the eligibility of a project for support.

### *How does my organization apply for funds?*

Applications are currently being accepted for 2010 project funding with a deadline of December 18, 2009. Applications for projects must be received by the deadline for consideration for this funding cycle. All project grants are non-renewable<sup>3</sup> and may last up to 18 months. We expect to notify applicants about funding decisions in March 2010.

The following information must be included in the application package (preferably in electronic format):

- Completed Application for Financial Support including detailed budget;
- Map with barrier/project location indicated;
- Photographs of the project site (preferably as JPGs not imbedded in a word document or PDF);
- Project Design Plans (for all construction proposals); and
- Letter of concurrence from owner of dam or barrier (if owner is not the applicant).

Supporting documentation such as other maps and letters of support are encouraged, but not required. Additional information may be requested from the applicant before an award is finalized.

Applicants must contact American Rivers to discuss the potential project prior to submitting an application. Select from the appropriate regional contact below.

Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT): Brian Graber, 413-585-5896 or Amy Singler, 413-584-2183

Mid-Atlantic (NJ, NY): Stephanie Lindloff, 518-482-2631

Mid-Atlantic (PA, DE): Sara Strassman, 717-763-0741

Mid-Atlantic (MD, VA, DC): Serena McClain, 202-347-7550 x3004

California: Kavita Heyn, 503-827-8648

Northwest (ID, OR, WA): Kavita Heyn, 503-827-8648

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<sup>1</sup> "Diadromous" fish migrate between freshwater and saltwater during their life cycle. Examples include alewife, American eel, American shad, blueback herring, salmon, steelhead, shortnose sturgeon and striped bass.

<sup>2</sup> Consultants applying for funding must be able to demonstrate a local sponsor.

<sup>3</sup> Successful applicants will not be eligible to receive additional funding for the same project phase in future grant rounds.

## ***What types of projects will be funded by the American Rivers – NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Partnership?***

The Partnership funds projects in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Northwest and California that restore riverine ecosystems, enhance public safety and community resilience, and have clear and identifiable benefits to diadromous fish populations. Projects located within the St. Lawrence/Great Lakes Basin are not eligible for funding this grant round.

The Partnership will consider funding the following phases of eligible projects:

1. **Construction** of stream barrier removal projects. Eligible projects include dam removal and culvert removals/replacements (i.e., “open-bottom” solutions are strongly preferred). Fishway projects are not eligible for this phase of funding.
2. **Engineering design** essential to the permitting and construction of a stream barrier removal project. Eligible designs include dam and culvert removals/replacements (i.e., “open-bottom” solutions are strongly preferred). Fishway projects are not eligible for this phase of funding.
3. **Feasibility analyses** essential to the development of a stream barrier removal project. Fishway projects that do not remove barriers may be included in the analysis but removal of the barrier must also be evaluated for the project to be eligible for funding. A limited number of proposals submitted under this category will be selected for funding.

Proposals for construction phase funding may request a maximum award of \$100,000. Proposals for engineering design or feasibility analysis phases may request a maximum award of \$75,000. Proposals requesting more than maximum allowable amounts will be rejected. Proposals can be part of a larger restoration project funded through additional sources; however, organizations receiving awards must be able to demonstrate achievement of stated project objectives within the 18-month time frame of the grant. Non-federal matching funds are not required, however matching funds greatly enhance the merit of the application and are strongly encouraged.

The American Rivers-NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Partnership will consider inclusion of funds for salaries and/or travel that are directly related to completion of the project as part of a restoration grant. A maximum of 15% of requested funding is eligible for overhead/administrative expenses. These must be project-related expenses; general operating support is not an eligible expense. Up to 20% of requested funding can be applied to pre- and post-project monitoring expenses. Maintenance of an existing fishway is not an eligible expense.

### ***How are projects selected for funding?***

A regional river restoration steering committee, comprised of staff from American Rivers and the NOAA Restoration Center, as well as select regional representatives, will evaluate each proposal and make recommendations. American Rivers will consult with NOAA staff to make a final decision on funding and will notify applicants once a decision has been made.

### ***How do I contact American Rivers?***

Potential applicants with specific questions about the application process are encouraged to go to our web site [www.americanrivers.org/NOAAGrants](http://www.americanrivers.org/NOAAGrants). If the information cannot be found on the web site, please contact the appropriate regional staff member (see bottom of page one) or:

Serena S. McClain, American Rivers, Tel: (202) 347-7550 x 3004, Email: [rivergrants@amrivers.org](mailto:rivergrants@amrivers.org)