

# FY12 Maine Coastal Program Competitive Coastal Grant

## I. Introduction

The Maine Coastal Program (MCP) at the State Planning Office <http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/index.htm> announces the availability of funds for the following activities in support of our corresponding program goals:

**Ensuring Sustainable, Vibrant Coastal Communities:** To help coastal communities support marine and coast-related economic growth, coastal resource protection, and maintenance of community character.

**Improving Coastal Access:** To create or preserve access to the shore and waterfront for traditional commercial and recreational uses.

**Preparing for coastal storms, erosion and flooding, coastal hazards:** To help coastal communities become resilient by developing adaptive responses to coastal erosion, coastal storm events, landslides and other coastal hazards.

**Addressing the effects of land use activity on water quality:** To protect and improve coastal water quality.

**Restoring Coastal Habitats:** To insure that Maine's coast provides healthy habitat for the full suite of coastal plants and animals for generations to come.

Funds may be used for planning, ordinance development, project implementation, and outreach and educational programs.

## II. Background

Created in 1978, the Maine Coastal Program is a federal, state, local partnership under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and one of 34 coastal programs nationwide. Maine's program is a collaborative program that works in partnership with other state agencies, municipalities, regions and other organizations, with the Maine State Planning Office serving as the lead agency.

The MCP works to sustain coastal resources and enhance the coastal-dependent economy through:

- Coastal community planning
- Effective administration of state environmental laws
- Public access planning
- Habitat restoration
- Reduction of nonpoint source pollution
- Support of coastal stewardship through education, outreach, and volunteer support
- Innovative initiatives in special coastal places.

### **III. Eligibility**

Those eligible to apply include coastal municipalities, groups of coastal municipalities in a region; and Regional Planning Commissions and Councils of Government. Partnerships are encouraged and those proposals documenting strong partnerships that further ensure success of the project will receive preferential consideration. The list of Maine coastal towns that are eligible for this grant program can be accessed at:

[http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/coastal\\_zone\\_map.htm](http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/coastal_zone_map.htm)

### **IV. Grant size and duration**

Grants are expected to range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and projects must be completed within eighteen months from the date of the grant award. Projects must be able to document significant progress during the initial six months of the grant award.

### **V. Match**

25% cash or in-kind match is required.

### **VI. Grant categories**

Category 1: Ensuring Sustainable, Vibrant Coastal Communities

Examples of projects fitting this category:

- Implementation of waterfront development plans or strategies
- Development of regulatory and non-regulatory strategies to conserve working waterfronts
- Planning for the land-side support systems necessary for ocean wind energy projects and other water commerce
- Preparation or implementation of economic development strategies related to coastal tourism and marine-related sectors

Category 2: Improving Coastal Access

Examples of projects fitting this category:

- Development of municipal or regional open space and coastal access plans
- Implementation of municipal or regional open space and coastal access plans
- Inventories of access needs, property use surveys, user surveys

Category 3: Preparing for coastal storms, erosion and flooding, coastal hazards

Examples of projects fitting this category:

- Preparation of vulnerability assessments
- Development or implementation of municipal and regional adaptation strategies
- Landowner outreach and education

Category 4: Addressing the effects of land use activity on water quality

Examples of projects fitting this category:

- Development and implementation of regulatory and non-regulatory measures to reduce or eliminate water pollution in areas adjacent to shellfish growing areas.

- Implementation of measures to promote the use of low impact development (“LID”) stormwater management techniques in coastal watersheds
- Development or implementation of multi-town estuary or coastal watershed plans

Category 5: Restoring Coastal Habitats

Examples of projects fitting this category:

- Preparation of habitat restoration plans, strategies, or needs assessments; particularly in coastal focus areas identified by Maine’s Beginning with Habitat Program ([www.beginningwithhabitat.org](http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org))
- Development of pre-project feasibility studies
- Workshops for landowners and community decision-makers
- Restoration project implementation

Note: Examples of projects provided in the section above are meant to be illustrative only. Applicants are encouraged to creatively address the objectives of the grant program and develop projects suited to the unique needs of the applicant within the general categories identified above.

**VII. Grant Application**

A complete grant application will identify which category is being addressed; a brief statement of the problem and the method that will be used to address the problem; partners; roles and responsibilities of cooperating parties; anticipated outcomes; timeline, and budget. Letters of partner commitment and support and those providing match should be included. Resumes of project leads may be attached, but are not required. Grant applications may not exceed 10 pages in length; letters of support and resumes will not be included in the page count.

The required format for the grant application is provided below.

***Cover Sheet including;***

- Project Title
- Municipality or region covered
- Grant category
- Grant request amount
- Project Manager: Contact information
- Project partners

***Project Summary***

Please include relevant background information; an explanation of the problem or opportunity; demonstration of the need for the project; and proposed use of the grant award. Describe experience with similar work undertaken by the applicant and/or project partners.

### ***Project Description***

This section should include project tasks, a description of what will be done, how it will be done, who will do it, and the expected project outcomes and products. This section should also include a project schedule covering project phases and tasks, significant milestones and projected completion dates.

### ***Project Budget***

Include a detailed budget for expenditure of the funds requested. If this funding is part of a larger package of funding needed to complete this project, please indicate the source of the remaining funds and their status (e.g. requested, in hand).

## **VIII. Application Deadline and Submission**

Applications should be submitted electronically to [elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov) with 'Application to the 2011 Maine Coastal Program Competitive Grant Program' in the subject line. Applications will be due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2011; with no exceptions permitted.

For questions please contact Elizabeth Hertz, State Planning Office, Tel# 207-624-6220; email: [elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov)

## **IX. Proposal Scoring Criteria**

### **1. 25 points Quality of the Grant Proposal; project feasibility and readiness**

The proposal is complete and well organized. The project has a clear and achievable goal; the project plan is well-developed, thorough and provides a sufficiently-detailed explanation of how the project will be completed. The proposed project can be completed within 18 months of the grant award.

### **2. 20 points Applicant qualifications, capacity**

Applicant has the necessary technical experience, knowledge, and administrative capacity to successfully complete and report on the proposed project. For multi-phase projects, earlier phases have been successfully executed.

### **3. 25 points Cost**

Costs are well-documented, reasonable and tasks are appropriate for the proposed budget amount. Sources of match are identified and confirmed.

### **4. 20 points Linkage to identified state, local and regional priorities**

The project addresses the grant priorities contained in this request for proposal and advances the objectives of the Maine Coastal Program. The project implements ideas and actions identified in adopted municipal or multi-municipal comprehensive plans determined by the Maine State Planning Office to be consistent with the Planning and Land Use Regulation Act, M.R.S.A. 30-A §4347-A (3-A-) or open space plans, waterfront plans, or other plans produced and adopted through a public participatory process.

**5. 10 points Partnerships**

Project proposal shows documentation of support and participation by partners and clearly defines their respective roles.

**X. Proposal Review and Selection**

Project proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a review committee convened by the State Planning Office. Final project selection will be made by the State Planning Office, Maine Coastal Program and award notifications can be anticipated by Wednesday, December 21, 2011. The final work plan for the successful grantees will be negotiated with SPO as part of finalization of the grant award.