



Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

Sustainable & Resilient Communities



March 2025 - Western & Eastern CT



Is it finally Spring?!

The snow has just about all melted away and has revealed... well, that we all have a lot of work to do. Maybe these longer days and rays of sunshine will help us see opportunities, like this image from Hemingway Creek in New Haven, where dedicated residents have already cultivated a native plant garden along its banks and are putting together a vision for much more. (Photo credit: Sylvia Dorsey)

We hope that our upcoming SRC Funding Workshop will also be a place for cultivating ideas for resilience projects and connecting you with the funding opportunities you need to accomplish them. This year's program will feature over 15 funding and assistance programs that represent state, regional, and federal opportunities!

Don't miss out on the opportunity to connect with peers, funders, assistance programs, and get all of the latest advice on your applications!

Register by March 25th to secure your spot.

[See Details and Register Here!](#)

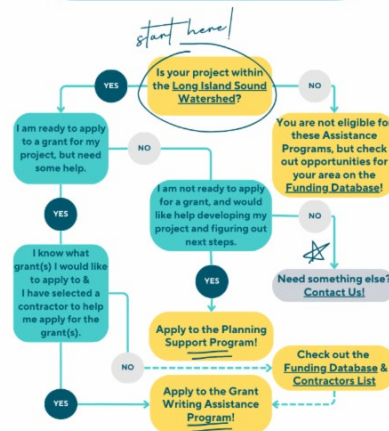
Funding Opportunities

Remember, you can browse and filter funding opportunities through our [Funding Database on the LIS Resilience Resource Hub!](#)

Visit our [Assistance Programs page](#) and use our handy flow chart to determine which SRC assistance program may be right for you!

What Assistance Program is right for me?

Click on the image to interact



⌚ DUE SOON ⌚

Climate Smart Communities Initiative

This initiative (CSCI) provides funding, expertise, training, and other resources to help communities advance their climate resilience plans and projects while also developing the strategies and capacities that communities nationwide will need as climate impacts intensify.

Applications due: **EXTENDED to March 21, 2025**

The Claire C. Bennett Watershed Fund

The fund partners with local land trusts, municipalities, state agencies and others to protect threatened watershed lands and protect water quality while improving quality of life for communities. There are grants available for land acquisition and environmental education programs.

Applications Due: April 1, 2025

[NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#)

NOAA is seeking proposals for transformational projects that will restore coastal habitat and strengthen community resilience. This funding prioritizes habitat restoration actions that rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries, contribute to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, use natural infrastructure to reduce damage from flooding and storms, promote resilient ecosystems and communities, and yield socioeconomic benefits.

Applications Due: April 16, 2025

OPEN OPPORTUNITIES

[The Land Capital Grant Program](#)

Offered by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC), the Land Capital Grant Program (LCG) is designed to bridge funding gaps and accelerate the protection of valuable conservation lands. Applications are accepted by invitation only.

Applications due: May 1, 2025

[Climate Smart Land Stewardship Grant Program](#)

This new fund for land trusts offered by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) with support from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture will award \$500,000 over multiple years for both planning and implementation grants.

Applications due: May 1, 2025

[Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current](#)

With funding from FEMA, the Swift Current funding opportunity provides money to help reduce flood damage to properties that have been repeatedly or severely flooded and are insured through the National Flood Insurance Program. This funding is available after a major flood disaster is declared by the President.

Applications due to State: May 5, 2025

[NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities](#)

\$20 million in funding is available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for projects that will advance the coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities. This funding will help support community-driven habitat restoration and build the capacity of tribes and underserved communities to more fully participate in restoration activities.

Applications Due: May 12, 2025

[Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program](#)

The ORLP is a nationally competitive, dollar-for-dollar matching grant program. It was created to aid disadvantaged, urban communities that lack access to close-by outdoor recreation. Funds can be used for the acquisition and/or development of, or substantial renovation of, public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces.

Applications Due: June 1, 2025



[NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund](#)

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation will soon be seeking proposals to restore the health and living resources of Long Island Sound. This grant program supports efforts to test innovative approaches to conservation, deliver transformative projects, and support people and communities who value the sound and take a direct role in its future.

Upcoming Events

[SRC 2nd Annual CT Funding Workshop](#)

Join us at the **Canal Dock Boathouse in New Haven, CT** where we will foster discussions to inspire great ideas and build stronger funding applications for sustainability and resilience projects. The event will feature lightning-round introductions to local, state, and region-specific funding opportunities, a panel with recent awardees, and small-group breakout sessions with the funders and panelists to workshop project ideas.



REGISTER NOW
Sustainable and Resilient Communities
2nd Annual Connecticut
Funding Workshop
Monday, March 31, 2025 in New Haven, CT
Workshops will run from **10:00 am - 2:30 pm**
and lunch will be provided
[Click here for more information and Registration](#)
Sea Grant CONNECTICUT Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

[Register Here](#) | Monday, March 31, 2025 | 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

[Free and Open Source GIS Tools – Part 1](#)

Don't miss out on this week's [UConn CLEAR](#) workshop! This 45-minute introductory presentation is the first in a two-part series on free and open source GIS. It will cover the new and broad ecosystem of GIS and geospatial tools (e.g. viewers, scripting tools and desktop applications), explain how to choose the right tools for your set of uses cases, access public data, and how to conduct simple spatial analyses with QGIS.

[Register Here](#) | March 20, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm

[Connecticut Land Conservation Conference](#)

Join the waitlist for the Connecticut Land Conservation Conference. This unique event stands out for its dynamic blend of training, networking, and information-sharing designed for land trusts, conservation groups, and those interested in land conservation across Connecticut.

[Learn More Here](#) | Saturday, March 22, 2025

[Case Studies in Flood Mitigation and Adaptation: Resilient Connecticut Projects in East Haddam & Mystic Webinar](#)

This CIRCA webinar will highlight two case study projects currently underway in East Haddam and Stonington Mystic, CT as part of the Resilient Connecticut planning and technical assistance program.

[Register Here](#) | Tuesday, April 8, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

[Help Develop the Long Island Sound Stewardship Strategy!](#)

The Long Island Sound Study will host a series of public meetings to discuss and finalize the Stewardship Strategy. The Strategy aims to provide a framework in support of the 33 Stewardship Areas of the [Initiative](#). The draft of the Strategy will be shared for public comment March 10 – May 9.

[Register & Learn More Here](#) | April 24, June 4 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

[Planning for a Network of Resilience Hubs in Connecticut Workshop](#)

Through the [Resilient Connecticut project](#), [CIRCA](#) is partnering with municipalities, COGs, state agencies, technical planning teams, and community stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to local and regional climate challenges. This in-person workshop will share more about Resilience Hubs and offer opportunities to collaborate with other attendees.

[Register Here](#) | Wednesday April 30, 2025 | 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

CT MyCoast - Kickoff Webinar

Join us for a virtual gathering to learn more about the new MyCoast project recently funded through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) and focusing on the CT communities of Stonington, Groton, and New London.

MyCoast is a tool that allows residents to submit photos of flooding events and high tides to a public database. This information can be used by municipalities to improve planning for local flood events and increase public awareness about coastal flooding.



[Register Here](#) | Thursday, April 10, 2025 | 1:00pm - 2:30 pm

Featured Resources

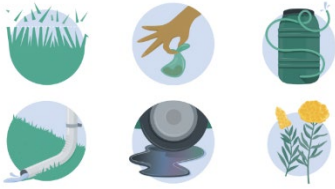
Vegetated Buffers

Adding native plants along streambanks is a simple yet effective way to filter excess nutrients and sediment from runoff, provide habitat, and reduce flood impacts. Use this fact sheet to learn about riparian buffers, why they are important, best practice recommendations, and design considerations.



Sound Ideas for Clean Water

Now available on the Resource Hub: Clean water and a healthy Sound start at home and in your community. Share information about stormwater pollution and its environmental impact with your neighbors and friends! LISS especially encourages



municipalities to use the brochure in your outreach efforts.

Resilience Roles

[Schooner Summer Camp Staff Positions](#)

The Schooner Program of Gather New Haven is seeking people with experience in sailing, aquaculture, environmental education, and working with youth to engage with campers this summer.

[Learn more here!](#)

Sound Bites

[Seeking a few good educators to be LIS Mentor Teachers](#)

The Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher Program is looking for teams of two (2) K-12 teachers to join the Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher program! Each team will plan and coordinate a one-day professional learning session for their peers. Workshops must take place in Connecticut. Funding is available for each team to provide an outdoor component as part of the session.

[UConn Students Empower Community Resilience, One Project at a Time](#)

Check out this article that highlights [UConn Extension's](#) Climate Corps, part of the award-winning [E-Corps initiative](#) led by the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). This opportunity connects communities with UConn Extension resources and students, creating a partnership that drives practical, incremental solutions.

[Save the Sound Unveils QuickDrops, a Game-Changing Water Quality Database for Broad Range of Stakeholders across Long Island Sound Region](#)

In a recent virtual press conference, Save the Sound unveiled QuickDrops, a new tool that puts the ability to easily access and share data about the health of Long

Island Sound and the rivers that flow to it into the hands of local environmental groups, government agencies, educators, and more.

Schooner Day Camp

Gather New Haven will offer four 2-week summer camp sessions for youth ages 6-14. Shore exploration and Learn to Sail programs engage campers through a well-balanced mixture of fun STE(A)M-based curriculum, team/leadership skill-building, and environmental education/stewardship activities to learn more about themselves and develop a sense of place in the natural world!

The 2025 camp sessions are as follows:

- Session 1: June 23 – July 3
- Session 2: July 7 – July 18
- Session 3: July 21 – August 1
- Session 4: August 4 – August 15

**Newsletters Archive &
Sign Ups**

[Find past newsletters here.](#)

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Newsletter!](#)

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