

Request for Proposal
The Mystic River Watershed Environmental Fund
at The Boston Foundation

About the Fund

The Mystic River Watershed Environmental Fund (the "Fund") at the Boston Foundation was established with proceeds from settlement funds generated through lawsuits and from volunteer donations. The goal of the Fund is to improve water quality and access to the river while developing strong environmental stewardship, advocacy and leadership in the watershed communities, especially among new immigrants, and the next generation of residents. In 2013, the Fund will distribute up to \$100,000 in grants of up to \$25,000 each.

Funding Eligibility and Priorities

Eligible applicant organizations are tax-exempt or operate under the fiscal sponsorship of a tax-exempt nonprofit. An eligible organization does not need to be located in the Mystic River Watershed, but the **activity for which support is requested must occur in designated Mystic River Watershed communities and/or be conducted for the benefit of Mystic River Watershed residents**. The [attached map](#) identifies the designated communities where activities must take place to be considered for funding.

Following is a list of communities that encompass the Mystic River Watershed, listed in alphabetical order:

- Arlington
- Belmont
- Boston
 - Charlestown
 - East Boston
- Burlington
- Cambridge
- Chelsea
- Everett
- Lexington
- Malden
- Medford
- Melrose
- Reading
- Revere
- Somerville
- Stoneham
- Wakefield
- Watertown
- Wilmington
- Winchester
- Winthrop
- Woburn

Priority consideration will be placed on requests from organizations focused on environmental advocacy, education, restoration, or preservation activities that impact the communities most impacted by environmental degradation and provide maximum social, environmental and economic benefits to lower income communities and/or the community of watershed resource to which specific funds are targeted.

Preference will be given to organizations with a strong track record and projects that focus on water quality that favor green approaches and engage the community in planning and implementation. Examples of eligible environmental activities that meet the Fund's goals include scientific testing, clean-up projects, and resident engagement in land use planning.

Organizations who currently receive Boston Foundation support through the competitive or initiative funding processes are eligible for grants.

Grants will not be awarded to individual public schools or other public agencies, but consideration is given to requests from community organizations that offer programs in collaboration with these agencies. An eligible organization must also be operated and organized so that it does not discriminate in the hiring of staff or provision of services

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on the basis of race, religion, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin or disability.

Request for Proposal Process

1. Submit your proposal. Proposals must be received by 11:59 PM on 4/29/13 to be considered. Submission can be made electronically [through the Foundation's online portal](#).

Please note: To spur collaboration, further idea generation and enhance transparency, the Foundation may include any and all ideas received in future publications and on the Foundation's social media channels.

The Boston Foundation staff will review all submissions received by 11:59 PM on 4/29/13 and may contact the organization with questions or to request additional information.

2. All proposals will then be reviewed and considered by the Mystic River Watershed Environmental Fund Advisory Committee, in partnership Foundation staff. Foundation staff with the Advisory Committee may ask to conduct a site visit and/or additional information requested to inform consideration. Organizations will be notified of funding decisions by 6/10/13.

If you have questions, please contact:

Chris Harris, Donor Services Officer
Phone: 617.338.1700
Email: mysticriverfund@tbf.org

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Information Requested for Funding Consideration

Proposals limited to 5 pages

Project Request Information

- Project Title, if applicable
Note: A brief description of the project.

- Please identify the Mystic River Watershed communities to be impacted by this project.

- Please describe the unmet or under-met need, issue to be addressed, or problem to be solved by this project.

- Please describe the project and indicate the circumstances that make this particular project a priority.

- Please discuss your organization's capacity and/or resources available to accomplish this project.
Note: Please include a project plan or scope of service, if applicable.

- With whom are you collaborating?

- How would you sustain the project after the funding expires?

- Amount Requested from the Mystic River Watershed Environmental Fund at the Boston Foundation
Note: The Mystic River Watershed Environmental Fund at The Boston Foundation anticipates supporting a variety of projects ranging in size, with a maximum grant of up to \$25,000 based on the intent and priorities of the Fund, type of project, total project budget, percentage of request compared to total project budget, etc.

- Budget for Proposed Project
Note: Numbers only, no dollar signs or commas (e.g. 7500)