



Connecticut Federation of Lakes, Inc. 2024 CT Lakes Grants Program Request for Proposals

Background

The Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to be the “Voice of Connecticut’s Lakes”. This mission includes promoting education and action regarding the many issues faced by our lakes and those who love them. We seek to preserve the ecology, water quality, recreational, economic and community value of our lakes and ponds.

To further this mission, in 2018 the CFL Board of Directors voted to create a CFL Lake Grants Program. Under this Program, the CFL requests applications from its Members for financial grants to support projects in three categories. The amount of the grants, and their frequency may change in the future based on our ability to support the grants and future needs. Any application we approve must benefit the Connecticut Lakes Community based on the review of the CFL. The CFL is not obligated to award grants.

Addressing the issues facing our lakes can be an expensive proposition. Unfortunately, funds from other sources such as the State have become scarce. CFL recognizes that its Lakes Program grants will not likely cover the full cost of project applications, but it is our hope that these grants will help you organize, raise the profile for your project or help engage your community. We hope that these “seed funds” will make the difference in some or your projects coming to fruition.

The CFL Board voted to continue the grant program in 2024 for the total combined award amount of up to \$4,000.

Grant Categories

The CFL CT Lake Grants Program for 2024 invites applications from its Members in the following three categories:

1. **Lake Association Grant**

For Lake Associations that are members of the CFL, this grant is intended for projects designed to support lake association goals. Example projects: lake monitoring, lake restoration, association building, lake community outreach and education. Lake Associations that are incorporated as 501(c)(3) entities will be given preference.

2. **Seed Grants**

This grant category is intended to support the efforts of groups of individuals attempting to form a lake association or to otherwise get an organized lake program started. Example projects include: legal costs of organizing a Lake Association, initial lake studies, and user/homeowner education.

3. **Lake and Watershed Research Grant**

This category is open to Members who are conducting research into an issue that impacts your lakes and watersheds. Examples include: studies of water chemistry, hydrology, lake ecology, invasive species, land use regulation, economic impacts of lakes, etc. Projects can include the analysis of existing data or new data collection. In general, the project should be based on scientific investigation methods and designed to produce results of interest to the CT Lakes Community and include research on lakes in Connecticut.

Awarding of Grants

The CFL has allocated a total of \$4,000 for grants awards in 2024. We anticipate awarding up to \$1,000 per grant based on project need, although this award value may vary at the Committee's discretion. In most cases the grant will help fund a project or program without paying for the entire cost.

The CFL Grants Committee will determine which applications will be awarded grants and the amount awarded. Awards will be at the sole discretion of the Committee.

In general, the criterion used will include:

1. **Need** – Preference will be given to those projects that will benefit the most from the grant.
2. **Goals** – Preference will be given to those projects whose goals best align with CFL goals.
3. **Plan** – We will look for a plan that is well thought through with a high chance of achieving its goals. Preference will be given to projects that can be completed in the current season.
4. **Monitoring** – Preference will be given to projects with clear plans for monitoring the success of the project.

Limitations:

1. Applicants must be residents of the State of Connecticut. The project must be based in Connecticut.
2. It is required that the funded project present a report on the use of the grant at a future CFL Meeting (or other event as mutually agreed) which will include a discussion of how successful the Project was to help future applicants and the CT Lakes Community.
3. Applicants must certify on the application that the project will comply with all Federal, State, and local regulations.
4. Grants cannot be used for any activity intended to influence legislation or in any campaign activity for or against a political candidate.
5. Applicants must be Members of the CFL in good standing. The Lakes Grant Program is open to all Member categories, except Corporate members.
6. Awardees agree that the CFL may use their name and project description in a public announcement and related promotion.

Application Procedure

To apply, obtain a copy of the 2024 CFL Lake Grants Program application form in Adobe PDF format. Complete the form and provide additional materials as specified. Applications must be emailed by March 18, 2024 to info@ctlakes.org. Applicants will be notified by the Selection Committee and the successful recipients' names and projects will be announced by the CFL during the CFL Annual Meeting on April 27, 2024.