



## **MetroWest Fund for the Environment: 2019 Guidelines**

Through its MetroWest Fund for the Environment, the Foundation for MetroWest awards discretionary grants that align with our belief that protecting and enhancing our region's natural resources is fundamental to the well-being of our community. Over the years, our environmental grantmaking has supported nonprofits working at the intersection of social and ecological issues. In particular, we seek to promote and support the conservation of the waters in our region, as water is essential to public health, to our natural ecosystems, and to sustaining a strong regional economy.

Grants of up to \$7,000 may be requested; the average grant size will be \$5,000.

### **GRANT PROCESS**

The 2019 grant cycle is an online process and will operate based on the following timeline:

- June 24 9:00 AM..... Applications open online: [www.bit.ly/ffmw\\_foundant](http://www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant)
- August 5 5:00 PM..... Deadline for proposals
- September 16 – October 4..... Potential site visits and/or follow-up conversations
- Mid-November..... Applicants notified of decision

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must:

- Have 501(c)(3) tax status as a registered nonprofit organization **OR** have an eligible fiscal sponsor
  - Public agencies are ineligible
  - Schools – private, public, pre-school, charter school, or Chapter 766 schools – are ineligible
- Serve the MetroWest region
- Incorporate a water-based element (see examples below)

### **WHAT WE WILL FUND**

We encourage grant proposals that specifically focus on strategies aimed to increase our region's climate resilience, offering technical and/or educational resources to advance local adaptation and mitigation efforts. We seek to especially support:

- Those concepts that create efficiencies as a result of encouraging multi-stakeholder collaboration or reducing duplication of services
- Community-based solutions that have a smaller likelihood of receiving grant funding from other sources
- Inspire behavior changes and lower barriers to community participation in environmental work

Potential projects may include, but by no means are limited to:

- Efforts to achieve measurable improvements to the quality of water in our region
- Integration of under-represented voices into the environmental dialogue and movement
- Green infrastructure practices within an area to determine their effectiveness in managing storm water and sewer overflows
- Research and advocacy work for uniform water management practices



- Practitioner engagement in local conservation efforts
  - E.g., effective design, management, and/or implementation of storm water and water regulations
  - E.g., providing technical expertise to local towns as they develop vulnerability plans

### **HOW TO APPLY**

1. Beginning June 24<sup>th</sup>, applicants will have access to the application form online.
2. If your organization is new to FFMW, please create an account.
  - a. [www.bit.ly/ffmw\\_foundant](http://www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant)
  - b. See [www.bit.ly/ApplicantTutorial](http://www.bit.ly/ApplicantTutorial) for a short video tutorial.
3. If your organization has applied to FFMW in the past, please log into your existing account.
  - a. [www.bit.ly/ffmw\\_foundant](http://www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant)
4. Once you are logged into your account, click on the Apply icon from the top menu bar.
5. Select **2019 Competitive Grant Program**.

### **SPECIAL NOTE FOR PRIOR GRANTEES**

To be eligible for funding, a prior grantee must have completed its project and/or spent all funds from Foundation for MetroWest, and submitted its final report. Foundation for MetroWest does not accept interim reports. Final report forms are available by logging into your online account. If you have questions or would like to request an extension for your final report, please email [grants@foundationformetrowest.org](mailto:grants@foundationformetrowest.org).

### **GRANT AWARDS**

Awards will be determined by mid-November. Grantees will be notified by email of decisions and grant recipients will receive necessary paperwork and funding within two weeks of the notification date.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 5, 2019 AT 5:00 PM**

*If you have questions regarding the eligibility or suitability of your proposal, we encourage you to email [grants@foundationformetrowest.org](mailto:grants@foundationformetrowest.org) as early as possible to schedule a time to discuss.*