



Casco Bay Community Grants 2017 Request for Proposals

BACKGROUND

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) invites proposals for the *Casco Bay Community Grants* program. CBEP mobilizes collective action to strengthen the Bay's ecological and economic vitality, fostering a shared commitment to Casco Bay. It focuses scientific expertise and financial resources on helping watershed communities address regional challenges such as water pollution, habitat degradation, and adaptation to climate change. Since 1990, when Casco Bay was named an "estuary of national significance," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has supported CBEP's regional work through its National Estuary Program. CBEP is affiliated with the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, Maine. Further information on is available on our website:

<http://www.cascobayestuary.org>.

Through this program, CBEP seeks to encourage new partnerships and innovative projects that engage communities with Casco Bay and its watershed. A total of \$10,000 is available for *Casco Bay Community Grants* in 2017. **Proposals between \$100 and \$5,000 will be considered, and applicants may also request CBEP staff time to assist with projects.**

Note: The Casco Bay Estuary Partnership will soon be inviting requests for our 2017 Habitat Protection Fund. CBEP funds are available to support the protection of high value habitat in the Casco Bay watershed. This is a separate grant program.

ELIGIBILITY

- Proposals are welcome from educators, land trusts and other non-profit organizations, civic groups, municipal commissions, churches, clubs, school groups and neighborhood associations. Fund recipients must be legally recognized entities.
- For-profit corporations are not eligible to apply for funds but are welcomed collaborators.
- All projects must occur in Casco Bay or its watershed (map attached).

PROJECT THEMES

Successful proposals will incorporate at least one of the following elements from the 2016 *Casco Bay Plan* and will address identified *Plan* priorities:

- Marine education focused on climate change, aquaculture, water quality, nutrient cycling, shellfish, marine organisms, habitats (mudflats, eelgrass beds, rocky intertidal, salt marshes, etc.), anadromous species, shorebirds, etc.
- Citizen science and stewardship initiatives
- Storytelling and art projects, including expansion of the [Casco Bay Stories](#) project
- Environmental restoration and habitat enhancement
- Mobilizing scientific, financial, and human resources to help residents throughout the watershed effectively address a complex challenge facing the region, such as climate change
- Place-based or experiential education on a topic of importance to Casco Bay and/or the Casco Bay Watershed
- Other activities that benefit Casco Bay or build public awareness around issues affecting the Bay such as: nutrient pollution, ocean acidification, stream connectivity, stormwater, climate resilience, and the Casco Bay economy



SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by a review committee on the following criteria:

- Focus on community engagement
- Clear connection to project themes (listed above)
- Well-reasoned project plan, including clear objective(s), project readiness, and the likelihood of success
- Sound budget
- Demonstration of community support for the project (contribution of volunteer time, donated materials or equipment, staff time, funds, etc.)
- If the project is education-based, preference will be given to projects with a fieldwork component.
- The review committee may request an interview or further information.

APPLICATIONS

Proposals are due via email to cbep@maine.edu by midnight on Thursday, January 19, 2017.

Proposals may be prepared either (1) in narrative form or (2) by completing the attached Application form (editable PDF). A proposal that does not exceed two pages is preferable.

Proposals should contain the following information:

- Project Title
- Applicant Organization
- Contact name, position, email, phone number
- Grant amount requested; CBEP staff time requested
- Theme addressed by project; Project location
- Project description and importance
- Project objectives
- Project tasks
- Project timeframe; Project personnel
- Evidence of community support which may include collaborating organizations and individuals
- How this project will foster community engagement
- Budget explanation; Project budget

AWARDS AND FOLLOW-UP

Funding announcements will be made by Monday, February 6, 2017. CBEP and the review committee may choose to provide partial funding for any individual proposal.

Successful applicants will be required to enroll as a supplier in the University of Maine eProcurement system, Maine Street Marketplace. Timing of payments will be negotiated depending on the project timeline. A portion of total funding may be withheld on larger grants pending completion of key activities. All project activities are expected to take place within one year of the award date.

A condition of the grant is that Casco Bay Estuary Partnership be acknowledged in any press releases, newsletters, on-site materials, signs, or other materials where descriptions of the project may appear. An electronic copy of CBEP's logo will be provided for this purpose.



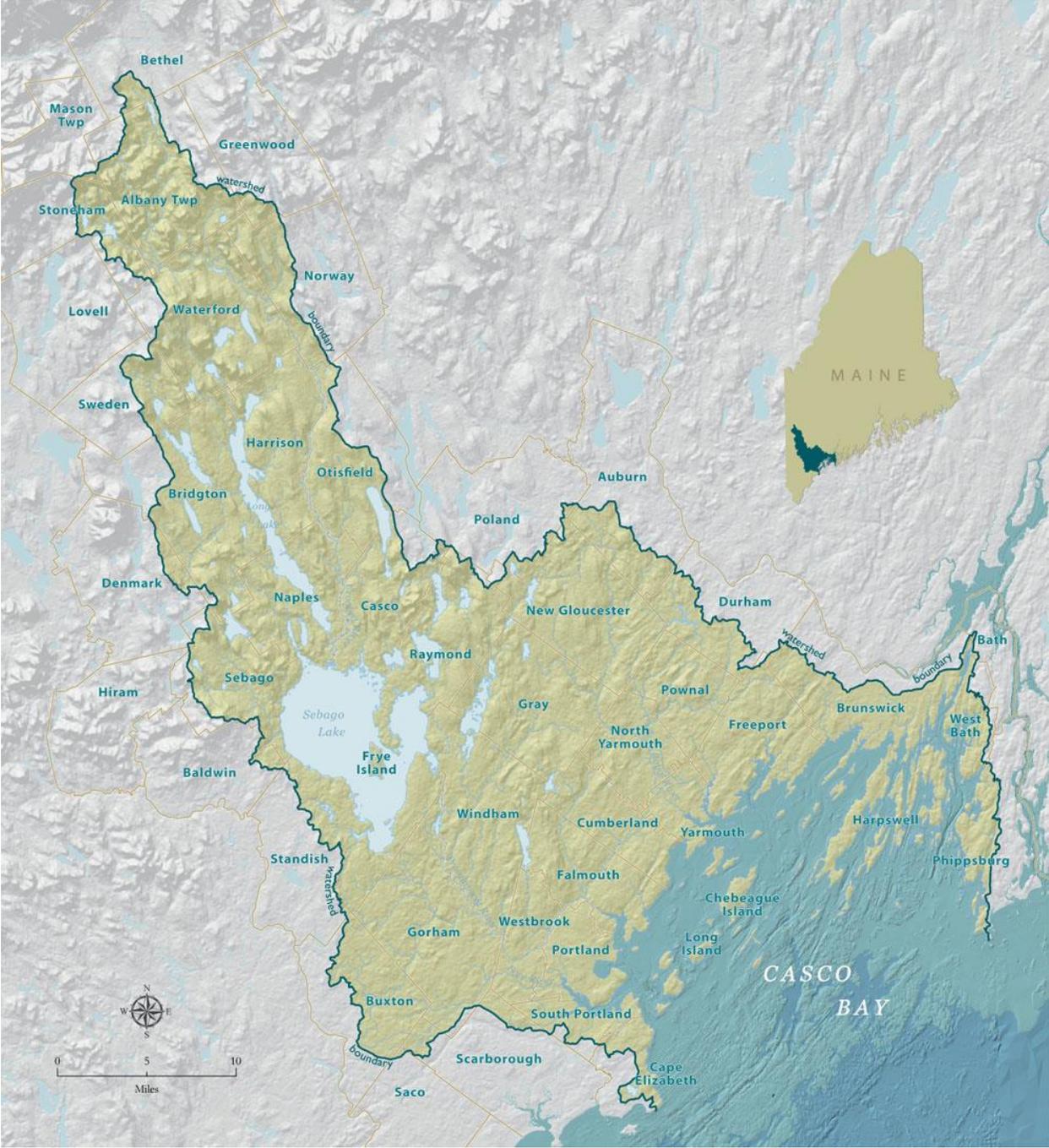
Grantees will be asked to submit a brief (one-page) report summarizing the project outcomes, and detailing project match and leveraging, within three months of project completion. Photographs, permissions, and documentation of media coverage (if any) may be attached to this report.

For examples of projects funded in 2016, please check out the [Grant Opportunities](#) page of our website.

Prospective applicants are welcome to contact CBEP staff for more information or feedback before submitting a proposal:

- Victoria Boundy, CBEP Community Engagement Coordinator, 207-780-5843, victoria.boundy@maine.edu
- Marti Blair, CBEP Administrative Specialist, 207-780-4306, marti.blair@maine.edu

Casco Bay Watershed boundaries



Casco Bay Estuary Partnership Community Grant Application form

Project Title: _____

Applicant Organization: _____

Contact name: _____ Contact position: _____

Contact email: _____ Contact phone: _____

Grant amount requested: _____ CBEP staff time requested: _____

What CBEP theme, from the list in the RFP or from the *Casco Bay Plan 2016-2021*, does the project address?

Project Location(s): _____

Project Description & Importance: _____

Project Objectives: _____

Project Tasks: _____

Project Timeframe: _____

Project Personnel: _____

Community Support including collaborating organizations and individuals, if any: _____

How this project will foster community engagement: _____

Budget Explanation: _____

Project Budget

	Amount Requested	In-kind Match	Cash Match	Total Budget
Supplies/Materials				
Equipment				
Travel				
Personnel				
Other Costs				
Total Project Costs				